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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

COUNTY OF ALBANY,

From June 10th, 1851, up to and Including June 14th, 1870.

ALBANY, N. Y.:
PRINTING HOUSE OF CHAS. VAN BENTHUYSEN & SONS.
1872.

PREFACE.

The labor of placing, in a permanent form, the early proceedings of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, was accomplished by Dr. Sylvester D. Willard, whose efforts to promote the best interests of the medical profession of the county, were indefatigable.

Imperfect as were the early records of the Society, Dr. Willard carefully edited them, publishing in one volume, the proceedings of the Society from its organization to June 10, 1851, together with biographical notices (written by himself) of members who had died, up to the time of the printing of that volume.

Since then the Society has gained a new impetus by the addition of numerous members, and the increased frequency of its meetings. A large mass of material having thus accumulated, it was thought desirable to publish another volume. The work was undertaken by Dr. James S. Bailey, who succeeded in raising, by subscription, the necessary funds for the purpose. At the semi-annual meeting, June 14, 1870, a resolution was adopted, forming a committee to supervise the publication of the proceedings of the

Society, from June 10, 1851, up to, and including that meeting (June 14, 1870), a period of nineteen years.

Biographical notices of deceased members have been added, and also a table, giving for each member the date of his admission to the Society, and, if deceased, the date of, and age at, death, when it could be ascertained; also when each President of the Society was elected.

The Committee of Publication trusts that this volume of the Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany may prove acceptable to the members of the Society for whom it was prepared.

JAMES S. BAILEY,
CHARLES H. PORTER,
Committee of Publication.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 11, 1851.

The Society met, pursuant to notice, in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. JAMES H. ARMSBY, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. WM. BAY, U. G. BIGELOW, DAVID R. BURRUS, J. H. CASE, E. H. CLARK, SAMUEL DICKSON, SAMUEL H. FREEMAN, ALDEN MARCH, DAVID MARTIN, JAMES MCNAUGHTON, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, JACOB REINHARDT, J. B. ROSSMAN, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, B. A. SHELDON, R. H. THOMPSON, P. VAN OLINDA, P. VAN BUREN, AUGUSTUS VIELE, C. C. WALLER, S. D. WILLARD, DAVID WILTSIE.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President delivered his annual address upon "Hospitals, their Origin and History."

Dr. THOMPSON offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be and are hereby tendered to Dr. Armsby, for the interesting address to which we have just listened, and that he be requested to prepare a copy for transmission to the State Medical Society for publication.

The committee on establishing a medical reading room, made their Report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee ask leave to submit the following views and conditions as their Report:

First. The advantages to be derived from a reading room, as proposed; on this part of the subject no diversity of opinion exists among the Committee, nor among the members of the Society, so far as ascertained.

All admit that a room centrally located, and furnished with the current periodicals on medicine and surgery, to which the members of this Society can have daily access, would be a result greatly to be desired, as these publications are rendered valuable from the amount of practical information they contain, conveying intelligence of new and useful matter in the science and practice of our profession, which should be placed in the reach of every physician. Very few, however, have the means to avail themselves of even the various medical publications of our own country, and least of all of foreign countries.

A very large proportion cannot afford to subscribe for more than one or two periodicals. The advantage of a medical reading room will be, that for a small sum contributed annually, a large amount of medical literature will be collected, to which all may have free access.

Second. The practicability of sustaining a reading room. On this part of the subject there is not so much unanimity of sentiment. The great difficulty, and which seems for a time almost insurmountable, is to obtain a suitable room at little expense. Different rooms have been examined by the President of this Society, and as the result of his examination and negotiations, the Committee have agreed to avail themselves of the invitation proffered by Mr. E. H. Pease to use the room at the south end of his store, on State street, until better accommodations can be obtained.

The use of this room is offered without expense, and an intimation kindly given that, after a few months, an additional room will be constructed for the express use of this Society as a medical reading room.

Should the expectations founded on this intimation be realized, or any other suitable room be obtained, free of expense, the Committee consider that one of the greatest obstacles to this enterprise will be overcome. The amount necessary to be raised annually to sustain and to afford the necessary variety of medical literature cannot now be definitely stated. We would, however, suggest that the Society appropriate a certain sum annually for that purpose, and that the amount of subscription be confined within that limit.

In conclusion, the Committee would ask for this enterprise the cordial co-operation of every member of the medical profession in this city and county. They believe by such united efforts it will succeed, and be instrumental in not only promoting pleasant social intercourse and kind fraternal feelings among physicians, but also of adding to the stock of knowledge, and thus qualify them for greater usefulness in their profession.

The Committee recommend the following resolutions to the consideration of this Society:

Resolved, That a reading room be established in this city to be called the Albany Medical Reading Room.

Resolved, That fifty dollars be appropriated for the procurement of periodicals to be placed therein for the benefit and use of the members of the Albany County Medical Society.

Resolved, That the contribution of one dollar, heretofore collected, be requested, from every physician entitled to membership in this Society, to be paid annually, to constitute a fund for the support of the reading room.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, whose duty it shall be to prepare a list of the most approved periodicals in medicine and surgery, and select therefrom a number whose aggregate subscription price shall not exceed the appropriation made each year, and deposit the list with the Librarian of the Society.

Resolved, That the Librarian, in the name of the Society, be requested to subscribe for the works included in such list, and direct them to be sent to his address, and cause them to be placed in the reading room; also, to keep a list of all books subscribed for, their prices and time of publication; also, to place in the reading room all books now belonging to this Society, with a catalogue of the same, and keep a record of all other business matters connected with the reading room.

Resolved, That no book or periodical shall be taken from the reading room, unless by a special by-law of the Society.

P. VAN BUREN,
J. B. ROSSMAN,
B. A. SHELDON,

Dated ALBANY, *Nov.* 11, 1851. *Committee.*

The President appointed Drs. Peter Van Buren, B. A. Sheldon and J. B. Rossman to prepare a list of the most approved periodicals.

Dr. B. P. STAATS offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Mr. Pease for his liberal offer of a reading room for the Medical Society, and that the Society will accept of said offer.

The Treasurer's report was made and ordered on file, and is as follows:

J. B. Rossman in account with the Albany County Medical Society, June 11th, 1850.

To cash on hand.....	$12 17	Paid H. D. Stone bill Nov. 11th, per Secretary	$4 00
Initiation fees of 2 members ..	6 00	Cash on hand Nov. 12th.	16 17
Cash for taxes.....	2 00		
	$20 17		$20 17

On motion of Dr. B. P. STAATS, Dr. Wm. B. Sims, Wm. A. Hawley, S. O. Vanderpoel, D. E. Fonda, J. E. Babcock, I. N. Wyckoff, C. D. Marsh, J. M. De Lamater and J. R. Bullock were admitted as members.

On motion of Dr. WM. BAY, the committee appointed to select periodicals were also authorized to form rules for the government of the reading room.

Adjourned. B. A. SHELDON, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 8, 1852.

The semi-annual meeting was held in the Common Council chamber on Thursday, June 8th, 1852, at 3 o'clock P M

Dr. James H. Armsby, President, in the chair.

The Secretary being absent, on motion of Dr. Swinburne, Dr. Willard was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. M. De Lamater, John Swinburne, Peter Van Buren, C. C. Waller, S. D. Willard.

Dr. Swinburne presented a preamble and resolution relative to conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon homeopathic students.

After a few remarks upon the subject, the paper was laid upon the table.

The following named gentlemen were proposed for membership: Drs. Levi Moore, F. L. R. Chapin and Henry T. Spencer.

On motion of Dr. Van Buren, the Treasurer was directed to call upon these gentlemen for their initiation fee; whereupon the Society adjourned to meet on Wednesday, June 16th, at 3 o'clock P. M.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary pro tem.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Albany, *June* 16, 1852.

An adjourned meeting was held in the Common Council chamber, Wednesday P. M., June 16th, 1852.

Dr. James H. Armsby, President, in the chair.

Present: Drs. James H. Armsby, U. G. Bigelow, Wm. F. Carter, M. F. Cogswell, J. H. Case, S. H. Freeman, Alden March, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. B. Rossman, B. P. Staats, John Swinburne, R. H. Thompson, S. O. Vanderpoel, P. Van Buren, C. C. Waller, S. D. Willard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as amended.

The Treasurer, Dr. Rossman, presented his semi-annual report, which was accepted.

Dr. STAATS moved that the vacancy in the "Committee on Reading Room," occasioned by the absence of Dr. Sheldon, be filled.

The President appointed Dr. Vanderpoel. The committee then consisted of Drs. Van Buren, Rossman and Vanderpoel.

The semi-annual address was read by the Vice-President, Dr. CARTER. After which Dr. MARCH offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Carter for his interesting paper, and that a copy be requested to be deposited in the archives of the Society.

The resolution was adopted.

Dr. STAATS called up the preamble and resolution presented by Dr. Swinburne at the last meeting relative to colleges graduating students of homeopathy. The subject elicited a general discussion, after which the preamble and resolution were rejected.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH offered the following:

Resolved, That the Society instruct their delegates to present to the State Medical Society for discussion the question, whether it is consistent with the honor and dignity of our profession, for Medical Colleges of this country to receive, educate and graduate medical students bringing their certificates from homeopathic physicians, who are legally authorized to practice.

The resolution was adopted, and the Secretary directed to furnish the Society's delegates with a copy of the resolution.

Dr. MARCH proposed Dr. J. W. Conklin for membership of the Society.

The proposition was referred to the committee provided by article two, section three of the by-laws, to examine Dr. Conklin's credentials.

Dr. SWINBURNE proposed Dr. Heard for membership; his credentials were examined, and Dr. Heard was admitted as a member.

After which the Society adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary pro tem.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *September* 8, 1852.

The Late Dr. Joel A. Wing.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held at the City Hall, on the 8th inst., the President, Dr. James H. Armsby, called the Society to order, and made the following brief address:

Gentlemen of the Society:

The object of our meeting to-day is to give expression to our feelings of sorrow and sympathy in regard to the death of one of our number, one of the oldest and most respected members of this Society. With one exception (that of our venerable father in the profession, Dr. Bay), Dr. Wing was the oldest practitioner of medicine in Albany, having labored more than forty years, faithfully, zealously, successfully, in the arduous and responsible duties of his profession. His death, not unexpected to us, calls for a suitable expression of our grief for his loss, our sympathy for the bereaved relatives and friends, and of our respect for his memory. The older members of our Society who are present to-day, who have been so long and so pleasantly associated with the deceased, and who so well know his worth, will please direct as to the most appropriate form in which our mournful tribute of respect shall be rendered.

Whereupon, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck presented the following preamble and resolutions:

The members of the Albany County Medical Society have learned with deep regret that their honored and respected fellow member, Dr. Joel A. Wing, has departed this life after a severe and protracted illness.

And entertaining feelings of affection and respect for his long continued and useful course of practice during the last forty years; for his kindness and attention to his patients, and for the many excellent traits in his social

relations—kind, generous and hospitable, they have unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the members of the Albany County Medical Society unite with their brethren of the profession throughout the State in mourning the death of the late Dr. Joel A. Wing.

Resolved, That in the various offices held at difierent times by the deceased, as President of the County and State Medical Societies, and as manager of the State Lunatic Asylum, he, at all times, evinced a due sense of the duties and responsibilities conferred upon him.

Resolved, As a mark of respect to his memory, that the members of the Society will attend the funeral, and wear the usual badge of mourning for the ensuing thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be communicatdd to the family of the deceased, as an expression of our sincere sympathy.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON said he most cheerfully concurred in the sentiments expressed in the resolutions of Dr. Beck; that he had known the deceased intimately for many years; that he entertained the most endearing respect for his character as a citizen and a physician, and that he therefore moved the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned to meet on the 9th inst., at the City Hall, at 4 o'clock, preparatory to attending the funeral.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary pro tem.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 9, 1852.

The annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber on the 9th of November, 1852.

Dr. JAMES H. ARMSBY, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. JAMES P. BOYD, M. F. COGSWELL, J. H. CASE, IRA M. DE LAMATER, S. H. FREEMAN, JOSEPH LEWI, ALDEN MARCH, JAMES MCNAUGHTON, A. MCKOWN, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, J. B. ROSSMAN, H. T. SPENCER, B. P. STAATS, PETER VAN BUREN, S. O. VANDERPOEL, C. C. WALLER, S. D. WILLARD.

The minutes of the adjourned meeting of June 16th, and of the special meeting of September 8th, were read and approved.

Dr. Staats stated that the students of the Medical College were present; that they were not particularly interested in the business of the Society, and he therefore moved that the regular order of business be suspended, and that the President proceed to read his address.

The motion prevailed, and accordingly the President delivered the annual address, the subject of which was, "Hospitals of this Country."

The order of business was then resumed, when Dr. Staats offered the following:

Resolved, That the President be requested to give the Society a copy of his address, and that the Secretary present the same to the delegate of this Society, and that he present it to the State Medical Society for publication in their proceedings.

The resolution was adopted.

The Treasurer, Dr. Rossman, read his report. The amount of cash on hand, $1.34.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Peter Van Buren, chairman of "Committee on Reading Room," reported a series of resolutions, which, with slight amendments, were adopted as follows:

Resolved, That the Librarian remove the books and fixtures belonging to this Society to the "Albany County Medical Reading Room."

Resolved, That the Librarian and Secretary be a Committee to take charge of the fitting up of the library in its new location, and that they cause the library case to be put in proper condition for the safe-keeping of the books and other property belonging to the Society.

Resolved, That the same Committee shall have power to direct, from time to time, the binding of such periodicals belonging to the Society, as shall be deemed best for the convenience of the members, and as shall be thought worthy of permanent preservation in the library.

Resolved, That, hereafter, any member of this Society shall be permitted to take from the library any book or periodical for perusal, subject to the following regulations:

First—The Librarian shall keep a register of the names of all who pay their annual contributions to the library

fund, and shall consider such as entitled to all the privileges of the library.

Second—A regular catalogue shall be kept by the Librarian of the books, pamphlets, etc., belonging to the Society; and, on Saturday of each week, between the hours of four and five o'clock P. M., he, or some one authorized by him, shall attend to the delivery of the same to such applicants as are entitled to them, not permitting, however, more than one book or periodical to be issued to any one member at one time.

Third—No book shall be retained longer than two weeks, or periodical longer than one week, by any member; nor shall the same be renewed at the expiration of that time, if any other member has applied for it.

Fourth—Neglect to return a book or periodical in the specified time, without good reason for such retention, shall make the delinquent liable to a fine of twenty-five cents for each week.

Fifth—Any member refusing to pay the annual tax, or who shall neglect to pay the same for three months, after being called upon, shall, until all arrearages are paid, forfeit his right to the privilege of the library.

Sixth—The Librarian shall report semi-annually the state of the library; and to meet the expenses arising from the purchase of books, or otherwise, shall, with the consent of the President, draw on the Treasurer, who is hereby directed to pay out of the funds of the Society, in his possession, all such drafts presented to him.

Dr. VANDERPOEL submitted an additional resolution, which was likewise adopted:

Resolved, That no periodical be distributed by the Librarian, until it has been upon the table of the reading room for twenty days after its reception.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON moved that the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, who was present, be invited to take a seat in the deliberations of the Society as honorary member.

The motion prevailed, and Dr. Kennedy accepted the invitation.

Dr. Burrows proposed Dr. Dwight Ruggles, of West Troy, for membership.

The subject was referred to the committee on admission of members.

Dr. Quackenbush proposed Dr. Samuel Ingraham for membership.

The Society possessing satisfactory knowledge of Dr. Ingraham's credentials, he was therefore duly admitted.

Dr. March, from the committee appointed to examine Dr. Lewis' credentials, reported favorably to his admission. He was therefore admitted.

The President read a communication he had just received from E. H. Pease & Co., offering the gratuitous use of an apartment for the Society's reading room.

Dr. Staats then offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be bestowed on Messrs. E. H. Pease & Co., for their liberal offer of the gratuitous use of a room for the medical library and reading room, and that the Secretary be requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to Messrs. E. H. Pease & Co.

The resolution was adopted.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The result was declared as follows:

Dr. John V. P. Quackenbush, *President.*

Dr. U. G. Bigelow, *Vice-President.*

Dr. S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

Dr. C. C. Waller, *Treasurer.*

Dr. H. T. Spencer, *Librarian.*

Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, Peter Van Buren, Peter McNaughton, Mason F. Cogswell, S. H. Freeman, *Censors.*

Dr. James P. Boyd, *Delegate to the State Medical Society for the ensuing four years.*

After which the Society adjourned.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *March* 23, 1853.

The Society met at the Society's reading room, No. 82 State street, at 3 o'clock P. M. Wednesday, March 23d, 1853.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. J. H. CASE, JOSEPH LEWI, LEVI MOORE, J. B. ROSSMAN, H. S. SPENCER, B. P. STAATS, PETER VAN BUREN, C. C. WALLER, S. D. WILLARD.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved.

The President stated the object of the meeting to be the appointment of delegates to represent the Society in the American Medical Association at its annual meeting in May next, in the city of New York.

The Librarian made a verbal report concerning the state of the library. It was accepted.

Dr. VANDERDOEL proposed the appointment of a committee, with discretionary power, to discontinue certain medical journals.

The Librarian, Dr. Peter Van Buren, and the Treasurer were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. VAN BUREN it was

Resolved, That the newspaper notices of the time and place of the Society's meetings be discontinued.

The persons whose names follow were appointed delegates to the American Medical Association, each person having power to appoint a substitute:

Drs. B. P. Staats, S. O. Vanderpoel, M. F. Cogswell, J. H. Case and John Swinburne.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a bill of prices whereby the charges of the various physicians of the Society may be made uniform.

Drs. Staats, Vanderpoel and Rossman were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. Spencer, the Society adjourned.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *April* 22, 1853.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the City Hall on Friday afternoon, April 22, the President, Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush, stated that the circumstance that had convened the Society, was the death of Dr. Lewis C. Beck; that it had met to pay that tribute of respect to the deceased that his character so justly deserved.

Dr. Boyd said, that although Dr. Beck had for many years been a resident of another State, yet he had been much among us—and had died among us. It was here that he commenced the career that has been crowned with such brilliant success. He, therefore, offered for the consideration of the Society the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, This Society has received with deep regret the intelligence of the death of Dr. Lewis C. Beck, Professor of Chemistry in the Albany Medical College, and of Chemistry and Natural History in Rutgers' College, New Jersey; formerly a practitioner of medicine in this city, and a member of this Society; therefore,

Resolved, That this Society sympathize with his family and large circle of friends in their severe bereavement, and that we manifest our respect for his memory, his distinguished worth and many virtues, by attending his funeral in a body, and wearing the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Society, and that a copy of the same be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and to the city papers for publication.

Dr. March said, he rose to move the adoption of the resolutions. For the friends of Dr. Beck he felt the most profound sympathy. His own and Dr. Beck's career commenced at nearly the same time, in this city, as practi-

tioners of medicine. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Beck went West to make observations of the country, and published at that time a Gazetteer of his tour.

Dr. Beck was born in Schenectady, on the 4th of October, 1798. He graduated at Union College, and afterwards at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York. He became a member of this Society in 1823. He commenced public life as a teacher of Botany, in Berkshire Medical College, and afterwards lectured in the Fairfield Medical College. Soon afterwards he became a colleague of Prof. Eaton, in the Rensselaer Institute. He succeeded Prof. Eaton, in the Chair of Chemistry, in the Vermont Medical Academy, in 1826, where he continued until 1832.

At this period he was appointed to the Professorship of Chemistry and Natural History in Rutgers' College, New Jersey; and in 1842, to the Professorship of Chemistry in the Albany Medical College. In both these places he discharged the duties of Professor until the time of his death.

Dr. Beck was a man of industry and unwavering integrity; his name and his character will long be cherished by all who have been associated with him.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned to meet at the Medical College at a quarter to four o'clock, to-morrow, preparatory to attending the funeral of the deceased from the residence of his brother, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *May* 23, 1853.

THE LATE DR. MARTIN.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the City Hall on Monday, May 23d, 1853, the President, Dr. Quackenbush, stated that the Society

had been called together in consequence of the death of one of its late members, David Martin, M. D.

Whereupon, Dr. Peter McNaughton offered the following resolutions:

Whereas, It has pleased Divine Providence to remove, by death, David Martin, M. D., for many years an esteemed member of the Albany County Medical Society:

Resolved, That in common with an extensive circle of relatives and friends, we deeply lament the early death of our beloved friend and fellow member

Resolved, That we offer to the family of the deceased our condolence and heartfelt sympathy in their afflictive bereavement.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, the members of the Society will attend the funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and published in the city papers.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned to meet at the office of Dr. James McNaughton, at 3½ o'clock to-day (Tuesday), preparatory to attending the funeral.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 14, 1853.

The semi-annual meeting was held June 14th, 1853, in the City Hall.

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. U. G. Bigelow, Mason F. Cogswell, I. M. De Lamater, Levi Moore, J. B. Rossman, B. P. Staats, Augustus Viele, S. O. Vanderpoel, John Van Buren, C. C. Waller, S. D. Willard.

Dr. B. P. Staats, from the committee to which was referred the subject of preparing a bill of prices by which the charges of the members of the Society may be made uniform, reported the following bill, to apply only to the city of Albany:

For a visit at night	$2 00 to	$3 00
" a visit in the day time, within one mile		1 00
" every additional mile		1 00
" consultation visit		5 00
" office prescription, without medicine		1 00
" every ounce of solution or mixture		25
" every powder or dose of pills		25
" extracting tooth in office		50
" venesection in office		50
" cupping and scarifying	2 00 to	5 00
" vaccinating in office		1 00
" vaccinating at patient's house		2 00
" administering enema		1 00
" introducing catheter		2 00
" applying leeches—for each leech		50
" reducing hernia	5 00 to	10 00
" each case of lues venera	10 00 to	50 00
" each case of gonorrhœa	5 00 to	20 00
" reducing fractured thigh or leg	10 00 to	20 00
" each subsequent visit		1 00
" reducing fractured arm	5 00 to	10 00
" each subsequent visit		1 00
" luxations the same as fractures.		
" ordinary cases of midwifery	5 00 to	20 00
" case of instrumental labor	10 00 to	50 00
" applying caustic to tonsils, in addition to visit		1 00
" applying caustic to eye, in addition to visit		1 00

In all cases of malignant or contagious diseases, it will be proper to add one-third additional to every visit. For all cases not enumerated in the above, a proportionate price to be charged.

The above list of prices is to be the adopted standard of the Society; but individual practitioners who think their services are not equal to the prices above specified, may charge a less sum for their compensation.

On motion of Dr. COGSWELL, the report was accepted and the bill adopted, and one hundred copies of it ordered printed.

Dr. BIGELOW proposed for membership Dr. Hiram A. Edmonds.

Dr. VIELE proposed Dr. John P. Whitbeck, of West Troy

The credentials of these gentlemen being known to the Society, they were admitted to membership.

Dr. Bigelow, the Vice-President, read an address, the subject of which was, "Defective Nutrition."

Dr. Vanderpoel moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Bigelow for his purely practical address.

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Vanderpoel read a paper on "Ulceration of the Cervix Uteri."

Dr. Cogswell moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Vanderpoel for his well-written, well-studied and very practical essay.

The motion was carried, and the Society then adjourned.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 8. 1853.

The annual meeting of the Society was held in the City Hall, Tuesday, 3 o'clock P. M., November 8th, 1853.

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. Jas. H. Armsby, Jas. M. Brown, D. R. Burrus, U. G. Bigelow, J. H. Case, I. M. De Lamater, H. A. Edmonds, S. H. Freeman, Levi Moore, James McNaughton, Alden March, J. B. Rossman, B. P. Staats, John Swinburne, Howard Townsend, Peter Van Olinda, S. O. Vanderpoel, S. D. Willard. Also, gentlemen of the class of the Albany Medical College.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. McNaughton moved to suspend the regular order of business, and to make the annual address the special order, that the medical class might not be detained beyond the hour of their next lecture.

The President, Dr. QUACKENBUSH, then delivered the annual address.

After which, Dr. MCNAUGHTON offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President for the very interesting and instructive address now delivered, and that a copy of it be requested to be transmitted through our delegate to the State Medical Society, at its next meeting.

The order of business was resumed, when the following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

Drs. Henry March, James H. Scoon, Harvey B. Wilbur, of the State Asylum for Idiots, —— Heinze.

The committee having knowledge of the proper credentials of these gentlemen, the Society voted to admit them.

The Society then adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *December* 30, 1853.

A special meeting was held December 30th, 1853, in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. THOMAS HUN, I. M. DE LAMATER, PETER MCNAUGHTON, LEVI MOORE, B. P. STAATS, JOHN SWINBURNE, S. O. VANDERPOEL, C. C. WALLER, S. D. WILLARD.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved.

The President stated the object of the meeting to be the election of three delegates to the State Medical Society, to which this Society is entitled, under an act of the Legislature passed June 4th, 1853, chapter 317, Session Laws of 1853, and also to elect five delegates to represent the Society at the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association.

Drs. Peter McNaughton, Mason F. Cogswell and Howard Townsend were elected delegates to the State Medical Society.

Drs. John Swinburne, S. H. Freeman, J. V. P. Quackenbush, S. O. Vanderpoel and I. M. De Lamater were elected delegates to the American Medical Association, with power to appoint substitutes.

Dr. Waller, the Treasurer, made a verbal statement of the financial condition of the Society.

The Society then adjourned.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *May* 24, 1854.

The Late Dr. Brown.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the City Hall, on Wednesday, May 24th, 1854, the President, Dr. Quackenbush, stated that the Society had been convened in consequence of the death of one of its members, Dr. James M. Brown.

Whereupon, Dr. J. H. Case offered the following:

Whereas, It has pleased Divine Providence to remove, by death, Dr. James M. Brown, for twenty-five years a member of this Society:

Resolved, That in common with his circle of relatives and friends, we lament the death of our late fellow member.

Resolved, That we offer the family of the deceased our condolence and heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, the members of the Society will attend the funeral, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and published in the city papers.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned,

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 13, 1854.

The semi-annual meeting was held on June 13th, 1854, in the City Hall.

The President and Vice-President being absent, Dr. SWINBURNE was called to the chair.

There were present:

Drs. BURRUS, EDMONDS, LEWI, HENRY MARCH, SWINBURNE, VANDERPOEL, WALLER, WILLARD.

The Secretary presented letters of resignation of membership from Drs. Wm. Geoghan and Christopher C. Griffin.

The resignations of these gentlemen were accepted.

Drs. S. P. Uline, of West Troy, and Chas. Devol, of Albany, were proposed for admission to the Society.

Their credentials were examined, and they were duly admitted.

The Society then adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 14, 1854.

The annual meeting was held in the Common Council chamber, Tuesday P. M., November 14th, 1854.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. ARMSBY, BIGELOW, COGSWELL, CASE, DEVOL, EDMONDS, FREEMAN, ALDEN MARCH, JAMES MCNAUGHTON, PETER MCNAUGHTON, MOORE, HENRY MARCH, ROSSMAN, B. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND, ULINE, VIELE, JOHN VAN BUREN, VANDERPOEL, WALLER, WILLARD, and gentlemen of the class of the Albany Medical College.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Quackenbush read a paper "On Rupture of the Uterus."

Dr. Cogswell moved to suspend the order of business, and that the Society now listen to the President's address.

The annual address was then delivered by Dr. Quackenbush.

After which, on motion of Dr. Alden March, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the President for his able and interesting address, and that a copy be requested to be sent as a communication to the State Medical Society.

The resolution was adopted.

The order of business was then resumed.

Dr. Waller, the Treasurer, reported the liabilities of the Society to be thirty dollars.

On motion of Dr. Jas. McNaughton, the report was accepted.

Dr. A. March proposed for membership, Drs. Wm. H. Bailey, Alex. H. Hoff, James L. Babcock, William H. Craig.

The credentials of these gentlemen being known to the Society, they were, on complying with the by-laws, accepted as members.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:

Uriah G. Bigelow, *President.*

Samuel H. Freeman, *Vice-President.*

Sylvester D. Willard, *Secretary.*

Cyrene C. Waller, *Treasurer.*

Hiram A. Edmonds, *Librarian.*

Drs. S. O. Vanderdoel, Peter McNaughton, Mason F. Cogswell, J. V. P. Quackenbush, Augustus Viele, *Censors.*

Drs. Peter McNaughton, Mason F. Cogswell, S. O. Vanderpoel, J. H. Armsby, Henry March, *Delegates to the American Medical Association.*

Dr. Viele rose to a question of privilege, and moved that Dr. S. P. Uline be expelled from the Society. He then charged Dr. Uline with having practiced quackery,

and presented to the Society one of his advertising circulars.

The reading of the circular was called for, when it was read by the Secretary.

Dr. ULINE then arose to defend himself from the charge brought against him. He admitted having issued the circular that had been read, but that he did it when he first began practice, at a time when he was ignorant of professional ethics; that he did it under the influence of a provoked excitement, not then regarding the consequences of the act; that he, afterward, exceedingly repented the indiscretion; that he had made apology to the neighboring physicians, and by them, with the single exception of Dr. Viele, had been forgiven; and, in Dr. Viele's case, it was a personal instead of a professional matter; that he was willing to make proper acknowledgments to the Society, although the offense was committed nearly a year and a half previous to his becoming a member of the Society; that since his connection with the Society, he could in no way be chargeable with misdemeanor.

The subject was discussed by Drs. B. P. Staats, P. McNaughton, Viele and Rossman.

Drs. Vanderpoel, Waller, Edmonds and the Secretary stated what they knew of the case at the time Dr. Uline was admitted, and the statements that were made to the Society at that time.

Dr. Viele modified his resolution so as to read: "That the Society do grant Dr. Uline the privilege to withdraw."

This modification, after some discussion, was withdrawn.

The motion then recurred upon the original resolution: "That Dr. Uline be expelled from the Society."

This resolution was lost.

After remarks from Dr. Cogswell, Dr. CRAIG moved a reconsideration of this vote.

The motion to reconsider was carried.

It was then voted to refer the whole subject to a committee of three.

The Chair appointed Drs. B. P. Staats, Cogswell, Vanderpoel that committee.

On motion of Dr. Staats, the Society then adjourned.

Sylvester D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 12, 1855.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held June 12th, 1855, in the City Hall.

Dr. U. G. Bigelow, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. Armsby, Bailey, Babcock, Craig, Chapin, Carter, Devol, De Lamater, Freeman, Lewi, Alden March, Peter McNaughton, Moore, Quackenbush, B. P. Staats, Swinburne, Uline, Vanderpoel, Peter Van Olinda, Willard.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved.

The following were then proposed for membership:

By Dr. Swinburne, Stephen J. W. Tabor.

By Dr. Bigelow, Daniel Wasserbach.

By Dr. B. P. Staats, James Cox.

Referred to the Committee on Admission of Members.

Dr. Freeman, the Vice-President, then delivered his address.

After which, on motion of Dr. Staats, it was voted, that the thanks of the Society be extended to Dr. Freeman for his interesting address, and that a copy of it be requested to be placed in the archives of the Society.

The select committee, consisting of Drs. Staats, Cogswell and Vanderpoel, to which was referred the subject of investigating certain charges against Dr. S. P. Uline, as member of this Society, submitted a report with explanatory letters, etc., and which concluded with the following:

Resolved, That it is not legal or proper to expel S. P. Uline, M. D. from this Society.

The report was accepted, and the committee discharged.

Dr. B. P. STAATS offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Society will not admit to membership any physician who deals in and sells patent medicines.

A suggestion was made that a committee be appointed for the purpose of publishing, by authority of the Society, a code of sanitary measures in case cholera should appear in this city during the present summer.

After some remarks, it was concluded wise to leave this subject to the board of health of the city, to which it appropriately belongs.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, the Society adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 13, 1855.

The annual meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, November 13th, 1855, in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. U. G. BIGELOW, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. H. ARMSBY, W. H. BAILEY, J. L. BABCOCK, W. H. CRAIG, F. L. R. CHAPIN, I. M. DE LAMATER, CHAS. DEVOL, H. A. EDMONDS, S. H. FREEMAN, A. H. HOFF, JOSEPH LEWI, LEVI MOORE, HENRY MARCH, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, J. B. ROSSMAN, J. SWINBURNE, B. P. STAATS, STEPHEN P. ULINE, S. O. VANDERPOEL, JOHN VAN BUREN, L. G. WARREN, C. C. WALLER, S. D. WILLARD.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, the address from the President was made the first order of business.

The President, Dr. BIGELOW, then read the annual address. Subject: Asiatic Cholera.

Dr. Vanderpoel then read a communication on Tænia Lata, and exhibited drawings illustrating the difference, the size, and the organs of those species of animals which inhabit the human body.

Dr. Quackenbush moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the President for his interesting address, and that a copy of it be solicited to be placed in the archives of the Society.

A vote of thanks, on motion of Dr. Armsby, was likewise extended to Dr. Vanderpoel for the interesting paper he had just read before the Society.

The Librarian, Dr. Edmonds, presented an annual report, together with a catalogue of the books in the library.

On motion of Dr. Staats, the report was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Staats, it was

Resolved, That the Society present the library, and its appurtenances, to the Albany Medical College.

The Treasurer, Dr. Waller, presented his annual report setting forth the financial condition of the Society for the last three years, and at the same time presented his resignation of the office.

The report and resignation was accepted.

Dr. Staats offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be bestowed upon Dr. C. C. Waller for the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of Treasurer, having twice brought the Society out of bankruptcy, re-established its credit, and secured for it surplus funds.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to present Dr. Waller with a copy of the above resolution.

Dr. Quackenbush offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Society will part with Dr. Waller with regret, and that wherever he may go, he will carry with him the best wishes of his former associates, the members of the Medical Society of the county of of Albany.

The Committee on the Admission of Members submitted a report.

The committee find that Dr. Stephen J. W. Tabor, a candidate for admission, was regularly graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and that he maintains a reputable standing in his profession.

The committee find that Dr. Wasserbach was regularly graduated at the University, in Germany, and that he likewise maintains a good standing in the profession.

The committee recommend that these gentlemen be admitted when they shall fully comply with the by-laws.

The committee report adversely to the admission of Dr. James Cox.

The report was accepted, and its recommendations adopted.

Dr. William H. Bailey was duly elected Treasurer in place of Dr. C. C. Waller, resigned.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, the Society adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 20, 1856.

DEATH OF T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D. LL. D.

At a special meeting of the Society, held in the Common Council chamber, at 12 o'clock, Tuesday, the 20th day of November, 1856.

The Society was called to order by the President, Dr. BIGELOW, in consequence of the death of its distinguished member, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON, after appropriate remarks, said: That, now, as the oldest member present, the melancholy duty devolved upon him of presenting, for the consideration of the Society, the following:

WHEREAS, It hath pleased God to remove, by death, Theodric Romeyn Beck; and,

WHEREAS, It is meet and proper, that when men who have been eminently useful in their generation are called from their labors, their decease

should be followed by a public expression of a sense of the loss sustained by the community to which they belong; and,

Whereas, Our lamented brother was not only distinguished for his social and private virtues, but for great public services, which rendered him a benefactor to the human race; therefore,

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to our deceased brother, we will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased in their affliction, and offer them our sincere condolence.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned to meet at 3½ o'clock Wednesday, preparatory to attending the funeral.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *February* 25, 1856.

Death of John Van Buren, M. D.

At a meeting of this Society, held on Monday, February 25th, 1856, in the Common Council chamber, and which was called by the President, Dr. Bigelow, in consequence of the death of one of the Society's members, Dr. John Van Buren.

Dr. James McNaughton made appropriate remarks relative to the deceased.

Dr. B. P. Staats presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Society have heard with sentiments of deep regret of the sudden death of one of its worthy members, Dr. John Van Buren.

Resolved, That this Society will attend the funeral of the deceased, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The Society then adjourned to meet in the Common Council chamber, at 1½ o'clock Tuesday P. M., preparatory to attending the funeral.

S. D. Willard, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 10, 1856.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, the 10th day of June, 1856.

Dr. U. G. BIGELOW, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. ARMSBY, BAILEY, BABCOCK, CRAIG, DE LAMATER, EDMONDS, FREEMAN, INGRAHAM, HENRY MARCH, SWINBURNE, B. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND, WILLARD.

The minutes of the annual meeting, of the special meeting of November 20th, and of the special meeting of February 25th, 1856, were read and approved.

Dr. BIGELOW proposed for membership, Dr. Amos Fowler.

Referred to Committee on Credentials.

The Secretary read a communication from the Registrar of the Albany Medical College acknowledging the reception of books which constituted the Society's library.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, the communication was accepted, and ordered to be filed.

Dr. FREEMAN, the Vice-President, read a paper on "The prevailing tendency to Cutaneous Diseases," which he offered as a substitute for the semi-annual address.

On motion of Dr. STAATS, a committee was appointed to make suitable arrangements for celebrating the semi-centennial meeting of the Society, which occurs at the annual meeting in November next.

The Chair appointed Drs. B. P. Staats, H. Townsend and Swinburne such committee.

The Society then adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

Albany, *November* 11, 1856.

The annual meeting of the Society, it being also the Society's semi-centennial anniversary, was held in the Common Council chamber, on the 11th day of November, 1856.

Dr. U. G. Bigelow, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. James H. Armsby, Wm. Bay, Jas. P. Boyd, Jas. L. Babcock, Wm. H. Bailey, J. H. Case, Frederick Crounse, Wm. H. Craig, F. L. R. Chapin, Ira M. De Lamater, Amos Fowler, Joseph Lewi, Alden March, Henry March, Jas. McNaughton, Peter McNaughton, Levi Moore, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. Swinburne, B. P. Staats, John F. Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel, Peter Van Olinda, L. G. Warren, S. D. Willard.

There were also present:

Dr. Alexander G. Fonda, of Schenectady, an original member of the Society; ex-member Dr. William O'Donnel, of New York city; Drs. Sidney Sawyer, of Chicago, Illinois; Westley Newcomb; Nelson Rush, of Stuyvesant; B. F. Hough, of St. Lawrence county; J. M. Pruyn, of Columbia county; Socrates Sergeant, of Massachusetts; Casper O. W. Burton, of Rensselaer county; Frederick C. Adams, Albany; Staats Winne, Albany; D. E. Fonda, Albany; A. A. Edmeston, Albany; G. H. Newcomb, Albany; O. C. Alexander, Albany; Henry McNaughton, Albany.

The absentees were:

Drs. John W. Hinckley, Peter P. Staats, Thomas Hun, Samuel Dickson, Wm. F. Carter, Herman Wendell, Mason F. Cogswell, J. B. Rossman, D. R. Burrus, Samuel H. Freeman, H. Townsend, David Wiltsie, Augustus Viele, Jacob Reinhardt, S. Ingraham, H. A. Edmonds, J. P. Whitbeck, S. P. Uline, C. Devol, Alex. H. Hoff, D. Wasserbach.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The Committee on the Admission of Members reported that they had examined the credentials of Dr. Amos Fowler, and found them satisfactory. Dr. Fowler was then admitted to a seat in the Society.

Dr. B. P. STAATS proposed for membership the following:

Drs. Staats Winne, Henry McNaughton, Frederick C. Adams.

Dr. U. G. BIGELOW proposed Dr. Andrew Wilson.

Dr. B. P. STAATS, chairman of the committee appointed to make arrangements for observing the semi-centennial anniversary meeting of the Society, reported:

That the committee had issued letters of invitation to the following gentlemen, requesting them to attend the anniversary of the Society, they having, at some time, been members of the same:

Drs. Alexander G. Fonda, Schenectady; Augustus Harris, Van Buren; Platt Williams, Oneida county; Moses Brownell, Troy, N. Y.; Geo. Upford, Indiana; John James, Illinois; John W. Bay, Albany; William Tully, Massachusetts; Elisha S. Burton, Esperance, N. Y.; Wm. Noble, Albion, N. Y.; John Styles, New York city; Sidney Sawyer, Chicago, Ill.; A. T. Bigelow, Otsego, N. Y.; Samuel Shaw, Massachusetts; Nelson Rusk, Stuyvesant, N. Y.; Henry Bronson, Connecticut; Wm. O'Donnal, New York city; Darius Coy, Cobleskill, N. Y.; Abraham Groesbeck, Chicago, Ill.; Alexander Van Rensselaer; Edward Q. Sewell, Canada; H. A. Grant, Connecticut; Peter Van Buren, New York city; Leverett Moore, Ballston; Edmund B. O'Callaghan, Albany; Chas. H. Payn, Saratoga; Jno. Campbell, U. S. A.; R. H. Thompson, Staten Island; Henry B. Fay, New York city; E. H. Clark, Buffalo; Henry T. Spencer; W. H. Wheeler, Philadelphia; Henry Van Antwerp, Louisiana; Richard J. Dusenbury Chicago; Westley Newcomb; Platt Wicks; Josiah Lay;

Ransom H. Gibbons; James Wade, Albany county; Alexander Van Rensselaer.

The committee had also invited Rev. Dr. I. N. Wyckoff, of this city, to act as chaplain.

The committee had likewise extended invitations to the following:

Drs. Thos. C. Brinsmade, Thos. W. Blatchford, C. V. W. Burton, of Rensselaer county; Dr. Backus, of Monroe county; Geo. W. Bradford, Cortland county; Abel Brace, Greene county; J. M. Pruyn, Columbia county; D. Willard, Connecticut; ——— Martin, U. S. A.; Frank H. Hamilton, Erie county; Chas. J. Goodrich, Kings county; Amos Dean, Esq. and Dr. E. Carr, of the Albany Medical College; Dr. B. F. Hough, St. Lawrence county; Frederick W. Seward, of the Albany Evening Journal; David M. Barnes, of the Albany Morning Times.

The festivities of the evening were arranged to take place at Congress Hall, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The committee had united with the President of the Society, Dr. Bigelow, in inviting Dr. Sylvester D. Willard to deliver the semi-centennial address.

The report was accepted.

The President, Dr. U. G. Bigelow, then delivered the regular annual address, the subject of which was, "The condition of the Medical Profession from the early settlement of this county, down to the period of the revolution."

The semi-centennial address was then delivered by Dr. Sylvester D. Willard.

Dr. Quackenbush offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Drs. Bigelow and Willard for their able and highly interesting addresses, and that copies thereof be presented to the Medical Society of the State of New York, and that the same be published by this Society.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, and the result was as follows:

Dr. Samuel H. Freeman, *President.*

Dr. Sylvester D. Willard, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey, *Treasurer.*

Drs. S. D. Willard, S. O. Vanderpoel, U. G. Bigelow, *Delegates to the Medical Society of the State of New York.*

Drs. De Lamater, Peter McNaughton, Babcock, Case, *Delegates to American Medical Association.*

Drs. Vanderpoel, Cogswell, P. McNaughton, Quackenbush, Boyd, *Censors.*

The Society then adjourned.

S. D. WILLARD, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *December* 9, 1856.

A special meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, December 9th, 1856, at 4 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. H. FREEMAN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. U. G. BIGELOW, J. L. BABCOCK, W. H. BAILEY, F. L. R. CHAPIN, J. H. CASE, I. M. DE LAMATER, A. H. HOFF, J. LEWI, L. MOORE, H. MARCH, A. MARCH, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, L. G. WARREN, S. D. WILLARD.

The President briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Dr. WILLARD presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The list of prices established by the Society, at its semi-annual meeting, in 1853, does not make specifications for the services which physicians are called upon to render to the city; for example, post-mortem examinations, and testimony at coroners' inquests, and testimony at the police courts, in cases of insanity, etc.; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to make suitable addenda to the list of prices for such services, and report the same to an adjourned meeting of the Society.

Drs. Alden March, B. P. Staats, U. G. Bigelow, S. D. Willard and A. H. Hoff were named as such committee.

Dr. Hoff proposed that a committee of three be appointed to prepare an address expressing the feelings of the Society in regard to the action of the present board of supervisors.

The President named Drs. A. H. Hoff, B. P. Staats and J. V. P. Quackenbush as the committee.

After listening to remarks from Drs. Quackenbush, B. P. Staats, Babcock, Warren, Hoff and H. March, the Society adjourned to meet on Friday next, December 12th, at 4 o'clock P. M. Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Albany, *December* 12, 1856.

Dr. S. H. Freeman, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. L. Babcock, W. H. Bailey, U. G. Bigelow, W. H. Craig, F. L. R. Chapin, I. M. De Lamater, A. H. Hoff, A. March, H. March, L. Moore, J. V. P. Quackenbush, B. P. Staats, L. G. Warren, S. D. Willard.

Dr. March presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

At a special meeting of this medical Society, of the county of Albany, held at the City Hall, Tuesday, December 9th, 1856, the undersigned were appointed a special committee to fix suitable fees to be appended to the established fee bill of the Society, for making post-mortem examinations and viewing bodies after death, for the purpose of complying with the law relating to the holding of inquests. Revised Statutes, vol. 2, 3d edition, page 827, § 3, the coroner shall have power to issue subpœnas for witnesses, * * * * and it shall be the duty of the coroner to cause some surgeon or physician to be subpœnaed to appear as a witness upon the taking of such inquest.

§ 4. Every person served with such subpœna shall be

liable to the same penalties for disobedience thereto, and his attendance may be enforced in like manner as upon subpœnas issued in justices' courts; also, for making examination and testifying before a justice to certificate of insanity, as required by law. (Revised Statutes, vols. 1 and 3, page 813.)

§ 45. If any person, in confinement, * * * * shall appear to be insane, the first judge of the county, or, in his absence, any couny judge of the degree of counsellor of the Supreme Court, shall institute a careful investigation, call two respectable physicians.

The action of the present board of supervisors showing us most conclusively that neither certificate of coroners, strengthened by our oaths, a minute detail of the services rendered, the name of person, place, and time occupied, under a resolution passed November 27, 1855 ("*Resolved*, That all accounts for post-mortem examinations hereafter presented to this board, shall, before being received and audited, contain a statement of the kind and extent of the examination made as nearly as may be, whether the same was requisite to determine the cause of death of the deceased person or persons, and the time necessarily occupied therein. The physician or surgeon making the examination shall also state his place of residence, the place where the examination was made, the distance necessarily traveled, the name of the coroner, and contain his certificate, and the oath of said physician or surgeon that the statements are just and true, and the charges reasonable, and that no part thereof has been paid or satisfied"), lead us to believe, that to receive a just remuneration for such services is out of the question; and deeming it our duty, as well as our right, to charge what we think proper for our services, your committee would, therefore, respectfully report the following as an addition to our fee bill, thereby legalizing the same, and giving as a cause hereafter against extraordinary legislation through the county:

For making post-mortem examinations, with dissection, in criminal cases, when persons committed and tried	$15 to $50
For making post-mortem examinations, with dissection, to ascertain cause of death, when crime is suspected.....	10
For examining bodies, and testifying as to cause of death, without dissection.....	5
For making examination and giving certificate under oath, in cases of insanity.....	3

All of which the committee submit, and recommend the adoption of report.

Alden March,
U. G. Bigelow,
B. P. Staats,
Alex. H. Hoff,
S. D. Willard,
Committee.

On motion, the Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *April* 14, 1857.

Death of Hiram Augustus Edmonds, M. D.

At a special meeting of the Medical Society, held on Tuesday, the 14th of April, 1857, the Vice-President announced the death of Dr. Edmonds, a member of the Society, and paid a feeling and eloquent tribute to his memory.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey, after appropriate remarks, presented the following, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we have heard with deep sorrow of the decease of our friend and associate, Hiram Augustus Edmonds, M. D., who, by his urbanity of manner, strict integrity, and honorable deportment, had warmly endeared himself to us all.

Resolved, That we do hereby tender to the relatives and friends of the deceased under this afflictive stroke of Divine Providence, our most cordial and heartfelt sympathy.

Resolved, That as a manifestation of our regard for the deceased, we attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the bereaved family, and be published in the city papers.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 9, 1857.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, at 3 o'clock P. M., June 9th, 1857.

Dr. S. H. FREEMAN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. WM. H. BAILEY, A. H. HOFF, HENRY MARCH, LEVI, MOORE, JOHN SWINBURNE, L. G. WARREN, S. D. WILLARD.

The minutes of the last annual and special meetings were read and approved.

Dr. WILLARD, in the absence of the chairman of the committee having charge of the funds remaining on hand after meeting the expenses connected with the festivities of the semi-centennial meeting, moved that the same be expended to meet the expenses of such publications as the Society may order.

Adopted.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. S. H. FREEMAN: Dr. Wm. C. Rodgers.

By Dr. HENRY MARCH: Drs. Swart, Alfred Wands and G. H. Newcomb.

By Dr. WM. H. BAILEY: Drs. Crounse, A. W. Shiland and O. C. Alexander.

By Dr. LEVI MOORE: Dr. John Banks.

Dr. S. D. WILLARD then read the semi-annual address.

Dr. SWINBURNE presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. S. D. Willard for his able and interesting address, and that a copy of the same be solicited for publication by this Society.

Dr. H. MARCH gave notice that, at the annual meeting, he should move an amendment of the by-laws, changing the hour of meeting from 3 to 4 o'clock P. M.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

LEVI MOORE, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 10, 1857.

The annual meeting of the Society was held Tuesday, November 10th, 1857, at 3 o'clock P. M., in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. S. H. Freeman, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. J. H. Armsby, Wm. H. Bailey, J. L. Babcock, M. F. Cogswell, Wm. H. Craig, F. L. R. Chapin, C. Devol, Amos Fowler, A. H. Hoff, Joseph Lewi, J. McNaughton, H. March, Levi Moore, G. H. Newcomb, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. Swinburne, Howard Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel, L. G. Warren, S. D. Willard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. Quackenbush, Drs. Hough, Banks, McAlister and Lockrow were invited to take seats with the members.

The usual order of business was suspended for the reading of essays and the annual address.

Dr. A. H. Hoff read an interesting paper on "Opacity of the Cornea."

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Hoff for his interesting and instructive essay.

Dr. J. L. Babcock read a paper on "Malignant Scarlet Fever," and made a detailed report of two cases, one of which terminated in recovery, the other in death.

Dr. J. McNaughton spoke briefly of the cases reported, and made some interesting and valuable suggestions as to the proper treatment to be pursued in the progress of the disease.

Dr. H. March proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Babcock for his interesting paper.

Adopted.

Dr. J. McNaughton reported a highly interesting case of gangrene of the arm, in which amputation was resorted

to with success. He also exhibited the specimen for the examination of the Society.

Dr. WARREN moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. McNaughton for his interesting report.

Dr. FREEMAN reported a case of rupture of the gall bladder, with post mortem appearances.

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY reported a new and successful method of treating hernia, and exhibited the instrument used.

Dr. J. MCNAUGHTON made some remarks and suggestions on the same.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved, and it was seconded, that the thanks of the Society be presented to the President, Dr. Freeman, for his able and interesting address, and that a copy of the same be requested, to present to the State Medical Society.

Dr. ARMSBY offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Society regards uniform registration of births, marriages and deaths as of the highest importance, as well to the medical profession as to the interests of society generally, and that we earnestly recommend the enactment of a law which shall secure this important object.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Society be directed to present a certified copy of these resolutions to the Legislature of this State, and that the members of the medical profession in this city be requested to use their personal influence in promoting this measure.

Upon resuming the order of business, the Treasurer's report was read, which showed a balance on hand of $31.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Bailey for the able manner in which he has discharged his duties.

On motion of Dr. CRAIG, the members proposed at the semi-annual meeting were elected members of the Society upon paying the initiation fee.

Dr. WILLARD proposed for membership, Drs. Leroy McLean, West Troy; Milton M. Lamb, New Salem.

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the National Medical Association:

Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, J. L. Babcock, Joseph Lewi and A. H. Hoff.

The following communication was received from Dr. Cogswell:

"Albany, *Nov.* 10*th*, 1857.

"At the last meeting of the State Medical Society, I was honored by being appointed a permanent member. I consequently wish to resign my position as Delegate from the County Society to that body.

"Mason F. Cogswell."

The resignation was accepted, and Dr. A. H. Hoff was duly elected to fill such vacancy.

The Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *May* 5, 1858.

Death of Samuel Dickson, M. D.

A special meeting was held in the City Hall, May 5th, 1858, at 12 o'clock M., on the occasion of the death of Dr. Samuel Dickson, of New Scotland, a member of this Society.

The President, Dr. Freeman, announced the object of the meeting, and paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Dr. B. P. Staats offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, This Society having received the painful intelligence of the death of the Hon. Samuel Dickson, M. D., a worthy member of this Society; and,

Whereas, It is meet and proper that men who have been useful in their day and generation, both in public as well as in private life, should receive the plaudits of their fellow men; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Dickson this Society has lost one of its most valuable members.

Resolved, That we feel deeply this dispensation of Divine Providence, and that we sympathize profoundly with his family and friends.

Resolved, That this Society will attend the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 8, 1858.

The semi-annual meeting of the Medical Society was held in the City Hall on Tuesday, June 8th, 1858, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. H. FREEMAN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. ADAMS, BABCOCK, BAILEY, CHAPIN, DE LAMATER, FOWLER, ALDEN MARCH, HENRY MARCH, MOORE, PETER MCNAUGHTON, QUACKENBUSH, SWINBURNE, VANDERPOEL, WILLARD.

The minutes of the last regular and of the special meetings were read and approved.

Dr. Thomas, of Rensselaer county, and Rev. Mr. Lansing, of Albany county, were introduced to the Society by Drs. A. MARCH and WILLARD, and invited to take seats with the members.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH made some pertinent remarks on prolapsus of the Umbilical Cord, and gave some valuable suggestions as to the proper course to be pursued in such cases.

Drs. PETER MCNAUGHTON and VANDERPOEL each reported a case of Prolapsus Funis which had occurred in their practice, with the attending results.

Dr. WILLARD then read the semi-annual address on Astrological Medicine.

On motion of Dr. QUACKENBUSH, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Dr. Willard for his very interesting address.

On motion of Dr. P. MCNAUGHTON, it was

Resolved, That a copy of the same be prepared for publication.

On motion of Dr. WILLARD, Dr. Milton M. Lamb of New Scotland was elected a member of the Society, upon complying with the requirements of its by-laws.

Dr. Leroy McLean was also elected a member.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Willard: Dr. Thomas Helme.

By Dr. Bailey: Dr. J. J. Myers.

By Dr. Chapin: Dr. James E. Pomfret.

By Dr. Lewi: Dr. George Steinart.

Dr. Willard presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to report to this Society, at its next annual meeting, a complete list of the regular practitioners of medicine in the city and several towns of the county of Albany.

After which the Society adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 9, 1858.

The annual meeting was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, November, 9th, 1858, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Freeman, President, in the chair.

The members present were:

Drs. Armsby, Babcock, Bigelow, Bailey, Carter, Craig, Chapin, De Lamater, Fonda, Hoff, Lewi, Lamb, P. McNaughton, J. McNaughton, A. March, H. March, McLean, Moore, Newcomb, Rodgers, Swinburne, Vanderpoel, Wasserbach, Willard, Warren, Whitbeck.

Drs. Fredenburgh, of Coeymans, and Babcock, of Bethlehem, were also present.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was then read, which showed a balance in the treasury of ——.

Dr. Bailey moved that Drs. Wm. Bay and Peter Van Olinda be elected honorary members of the Society.

Carried.

The Secretary's report and enumeration of the numbers of the practicing physicians in the city and county of Albany was next read.

The annual address was read by Dr. FREEMAN, the President.

Dr. CARTER, of Cohoes, reported several cases of Gastro Enteric fever which occurred in the Jennings family at that place during the months of February and March last.

Dr. RODGERS, of Green Island, read an address on the Registration of Diseases.

On motion of Dr. VANDERPOEL, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Drs. Freeman, Carter and Rodgers, for their able and important addresses, and that copies of the same be requested for publication in the transactions of the State Medical Society from this Society.

On motion of Dr. SWINBURNE it was

Resolved, That when this Society do adjourn it be for one week, that time may then be secured for the discussion of the prevailing throat diseases.

In seconding this resolution, Dr. J. MCNAUGHTON made some brief allusions to the present epidemic, and the proper course of treatment to be pursued.

The credentials of Drs. McLean, Wilson, Helme, Myers, Pomfret and Steinart having been examined and found satisfactory, they were elected members of the Society, on complying with its by-laws.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:

Dr. S. D. Willard, *President.*

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey, *Treasurer.*

Drs. De Lamater, P. McNaughton, Case and Babcock, *Delegates to the American Medical Association.*

Drs. Lewi, Bailey, Craig, Chapin and Warren, *Censors.*

The Society then adjourned for one week.

LEVI MOORE, *Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Albany, *November* 16, 1858.

An adjourned meeting was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, November 16th, 1858, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, Vice-President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Armsby, Adams, Bigelow, Bailey, Babcock, Case, Craig, Chapin, Devol, De Lamater, Fowler, Freeman, Hoff, Lewi, Lamb, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, H. G. McNaughton, A. March, H. March, McLean, Newcomb, Rodgers, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Swinburne, Townsend, Uline, Van Olinda, Willard, Warren.

Also, Drs. Brinsmade and Bontecou of Troy, and Dr. E. Bigelow of Otsego county.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. A. March, Drs. Brinsmade, Bontecou and Bigelow were invited to seats, as honorary members.

The subject for discussion, "Diphtheritis, or the prevailing Throat Disease," being announced, its etiology, pathology and treatment were ably discussed by Drs. P. McNaughton, Bailey, Warren, Vanderpoel, Bigelow, Freeman, H. Townsend, Babcock, Lewi, Hoff, De Lamater, Devol, J. McNaughton, and Rodgers.

Dr. Brinsmade, of Troy, being called upon, expressed himself highly pleased and instructed with the discussion he had heard, and thanked the Society for the honor of being permitted to participate in its deliberations.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Bailey: Dr. A. A. Edmeston.

By Dr. H. March: Dr. H. S. Case.

The Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *December*, 9, 1858.

A special meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, in the City Hall, on Tuesday the 9th December, 1858, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. D. WILLARD, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. O. C. ALEXANDER, J. H. ARMSBY, F. C. ADAMS, J. P. BOYD, U. G. BIGELOW, WM. H. BAILEY, J. L. BABCOCK, J. H. CASE, F. L. R. CHAPIN, W. F. CARTER, H. S. CASE, WM. H. CRAIG, M. F. COGSWELL, I. M. DE LAMATER, C. DEVOL, A. A. EDMESTON, D. E. FONDA, A. FOWLER, S. H. FREEMAN, T. HUN, THOS. HELME, A. H. HOFF, J. LEWI, T. LOCKROW, M. M. LAMB, A. MARCH, J. J. MYERS, J. MCNAUGHTON, H. G. MCNAUGHTON, H. MARCH, LEVI MOORE, G. H. NEWCOMB, J. E. POMFRET, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, W. C. RODGERS, J. REINHARDT, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, GEO. STEINART, J. SWINBURNE, A. W. SHILAND, WM. B. SIMS, C. P. STAATS, H. TOWNSEND, S. O. VANDERPOEL, P. VAN OLINDA, STAATS WINNE, A. WANDS, A. WILSON, L. G. WARREN, J. P. WHITBECK, D. WASSERBACH.

The minutes of the adjourned meeting were read and approved.

The following was then presented to the Society, and read by the Secretary:

To S. D. WILLARD, M. D., *President of the Medical Society of the County of Albany:*

WHEREAS, It has been alleged in the public prints, and otherwise extensively circulated, that at the recent election for State Delegate, to represent the Medical Society of the State of New York, that either from error or design the number of ballots counted was greater than the whole number of members present and voting;

And WHEREAS, Such reports reflect upon the honor and dignity of our Society, we, the undersigned members of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, petition you to call a special meeting of the Society, for the purpose of investigating said allegation.

(Signed.) JAMES MCNAUGHTON, THOMAS HUN,
MASON F. COGSWELL, P. MCNAUGHION,
HOWARD TOWNSEND, J. P. BOYD.

ALBANY, *Dec.* 4th, 1858.

Dr. Hun, after some prefatory remarks, introduced the following:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, by the President, to examine into the alleged frauds or errors committed in the election of Delegate to the State Medical Society, and that they report the result of their investigation to the Society at a special meeting, to be held at as early a day as may be practicable.

Dr. Hoff presented the following certificate, which was read by the Secretary:

We, the undersigned, were present at the anniversary meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held at the City Hall, November 9th 1858, and voted for Dr. Freeman for Delegate to the State Medical Society.

(Signed.) U. G. Bigelow, A. A. Hoff, James L. Babcock, James H. Armsby, Alden March, Henry March, Daniel Wasserbach, D. E. Fonda, G. H. Newcomb, F. L. R. Chapin, I. M. De Lamater.

After a few remarks from Drs. Freeman, J. McNaughton, and B. P. Staats, the resolution of Dr. Hun was adopted.

The President named Drs. Hun, Cogswell and Quackenbush as constituting the committee of investigation.

Dr. Hoff, after reading an article from a newspaper, reflecting severely upon the Society, offered the following resolution:

Whereas, Various statements, insinuations and misrepresentations, involving the honor, dignity and harmony of this Society, having recently appeared in some of the city newspapers, apparently emanating from some disaffected member or members of the Society; therefore,

Resolved, That such articles are unprofessional and disreputable to their authors, and dishonorable to the Society.

After a brief discussion, in which Drs. J. McNaughton, Cogswell, Hoff, Warren, and B. P. Staats participated, the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Dr. J. McNaughton, the Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 14, 1859.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, at the City Hall, on Tuesday, June 14th, 1859, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. D. WILLARD, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. ARMSBY, BOYD, BIGELOW, BAILEY, CHAPIN, H. S. CASE, COGSWELL, CARTER, EDMESTON, FREEMAN, HUN, HOFF, LEWI, L. MOORE, NEWCOMB, POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, RODGERS, SWINBURNE, STEINART, B. P. STAATS, VANDERPOEL, WHITBECK, WANDS.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman of the committee appointed at a special meeting of the Society, to investigate the alleged fraudulent votes at the annual meeting, made a verbal report, to the effect that the committee were not able to trace the fraud to any person or persons; that the spurious ballots supposed to have been cast would not have changed the result, since it appeared that Dr. Freeman received a majority of the legal votes cast, and was, therefore, duly elected State Delegate.

On motion of Dr. HUN, this statement was accepted in place of a report, and the committee were discharged.

Dr. WM. C. RODGERS, of Green Island, read a paper on Prolapsus of the Funis.

Dr. JAMES E. POMFRET read a paper on the Hypophosphates.

Dr. WM. F. CARTER, of Cohoes, presented a case of Aneurism, which was examined by different members of the Society.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Rodgers: Dr. R. H. Sabin, of West Troy.

By Dr. Bailey: Dr. C. H. Smith, Albany.

By Dr. Hoff: Drs. R. S. McMurdy, Chas. H. Porter, C. P. Staats, Albany.

The semi-annual address was then read by Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, Vice-President. Subject, "Bloodletting in Inflammatory Disease."

Dr. Rodgers moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Vanderpoel for his very interesting paper, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

Adopted.

Dr. Rodgers offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That it would much increase the interest and usefulness of this Society to appoint committees for the investigation and special consideration of medical subjects, said committees to report at each regular meeting of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Hoff, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Drs. Rodgers and Pomfret for their interesting papers, and that copies of the same be deposited in the archives of the Society.

The Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 8, 1859.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, November 8th, 1859, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. S. D. Willard, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. Bailey, Bigelow, J. H. Case, Cogswell, Chapin, De Lamater, Devol, Freeman, Lewi, P. McNaughton, McMurdy, Moore, Newcomb, Pomfret, Quackenbush, P. P. Staats, B. P. Staats, Steinart, Swinburne, Townsend, Vanderpoel, Winne.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Swinburne: Drs. Oscar H. Young, Thos. Smith, Albany.

By Dr. Moore: Dr. L. P. Van Hoesen,* Albany.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the gentlemen proposed for membership at the semi-annual meeting, June 14th, 1859, be admitted members of the Society, upon complying with its by-laws.

The President appointed the following committees, under the resolution presented by Dr. Rodgers at the semi-annual meeting:

New Therapeutic Agents—Drs. H. G. McNaughton, G. H. Newcomb.

Valuable Accessions to the Materia Medica originating with Hanamanic Practitioners—Dr. Howard Townsend.

Public Hygiene—Drs. Wm. H. Bailey, J. V. P. Quackenbush, S. O. Vanderpoel.

To secure Mortuary Statistics in the City of Albany—Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, M. F. Cogswell, J. Swinburne.

Medico-legal Testimony—Drs. S. H. Freeman, J. J. Myers, F. L. R. Chapin.

Testimony at Coroners' Inquests—Drs. J. P. Whitbeck, A. A. Edmeston, O. C. Alexander.

Management of the Albany County Asylum for the Insane—Drs. Wm. H. Craig, Wm. H. Bailey, J. E. Pomfret.

Comparative value of Medical Anæsthetic Agents, and mode of Death from their use—Drs. A. H. Hoff, J. V. P. Quackenbush, A. Fowler.

Medical Journalism—Drs. O. H. Young, J. E. Pomfret.

Case of Poisoning—Drs. Chas. H. Porter, F. L. R. Chapin.

Surgery—Drs. A. March, J. L. Babcock, A. H. Hoff.

Pathology—Drs. U. G. Bigelow, Levi Moore, I. M. De Lamater.

Diseases of Women and Children—Drs. J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. Lewi.

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* Never joined the Society.

Registration of Diseases—Dr. W. C. Rodgers.

Diphtheritis—Dr. Joseph Lewi.

The use of the Silver suture—Dr. J. H. Armsby.

Surgical treatment of Prolapsus Uteri—Dr. J. Swinburne.

Eruptive Diseases—Drs. I. M. De Lamater Levi Moore, A. W. Shiland.

Dr. S. D. Willard, the President, then read the annual address, on the importance of Mortuary Statistics.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Willard for his very interesting address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Dr. Wm. F. Carter, *President.*

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey, *Treasurer.*

The Society then adjourned.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *March* 28, 1860.

Death of John W. Hinkley, M. D.

A special meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held, in the Common Council chamber, on Wednesday, March 28th, 1860, on the occasion of the death of John W. Hinkley, M. D., a member of this Society.

The Vice-President, Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, called the meeting to order, who, in stating the object of the meeting, paid a fitting tribute to the character of the deceased.

Dr. P. Van Olinda offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, the Ruler of the world, in His inscrutable wisdom, to remove, by death, John Warren Hinkley, M.

D., for nearly forty years a practicing physician in this city, and a worthy and esteemed member of this Society; therefore,

Resolved, That this Society have learned, with deep regret, the afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, by which they have lost a member who, by his honest and upright course, has commended himself to the esteem and confidence of his professional brethren, and who, as an officer of the Society, and in various situations of responsibility and trust, ably and faithfully performed his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Hinkley the public have sustained a loss which more especially brings sorrow to many who had entrusted him with the care of their lives and health, and to whom he had endeared himself by his faithful attentions and hearty interest in their welfare.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family and friends of the deceased, more especially with that part of the family now absent in Europe, to whom the tidings of this calamity will come with terrible severity; and we hope, and pray, that they may be sustained in this great trial by the consolations of our holy religion.

Resolved, That as an expression of our regard for the deceased, we will wear the usual badge of mourning thirty days, and attend the funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings, signed by the presiding officers, be transmitted to the family and friends of the deceased, and also published in the papers of the city.

LEVI MOORE, *Secretary*.

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *April* 9, 1860.

DEATH OF WM. C. RODGERS, M. D.

At a special meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, held April 9th, 1860, Dr. VANDERPOEL announced the object of the meeting to pay a tribute of respect, of sympathy, upon the death of Dr. Wm. C. Rodgers, a member of this Society.

Dr. WILLARD, after briefly commending the character of the deceased, presented the following resolutions, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, God, our Heavenly father, has, in his infinite wisdom, removed from this life our associate and friend, Dr. William C. Rodgers, a member of this Society; therefore,

Resolved, That in this event, the announcement of which we receive in profound sorrow, this Society have lost one of its most youthful and

promising members, and the medical profession a zealous and devoted student, the cause of medical science an industrious and persevering advocate, and medical literature one who has already brought valuable contributions to its pages, and the community in which he lived an efficient and faithful physician.

Resolved, That in this sudden and sad bereavement, we extend our deepest sympathy to the afflicted family of the deceased, and that we fervently commend the widow and fatherless children to that God in whom there is abundant consolation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the Albany papers and in the Troy Times, of which the deceased was at one time an associate editor.

Levi Moore, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 12, 1860.

The semi-annual meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Albany was held in the Mayor's room, at the City Hall, on Tuesday, June 12th, 1860.

Dr. Wm. F. Carter, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. J. L. Babcock, W. H. Bailey, H. S. Case, Wm. H. Craig, J. H. Case, M. F. Cogswell, I. M. De Lamater, A. Fowler, J. McNaughton, Levi Moore, G. H. Newcomb, J. E. Pomfret, J. V. P. Quackenbush, A. W. Shiland, John Swinburne, Howard Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel, A. Wands, L. G. Warren, O. H. Young.

The minutes of the annual meeting and of the two special meetings were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. John Swinburne: Drs. J. N. Northrop, J. R. Boulware, J. Atherly, Wm. B. Chambers, Edward Duffy, A. S. Harlow, C. D. Mosher.

By Dr. Quackenbush: Drs. M. L. Mead, J. L. Welch.

By Dr. Babcock: Dr. W. Kilmer.

By Dr. Carter: Drs. John Sheriff and J. W. Moore.

By Dr. Cogswell: Dr. J. V. Lansing.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, Vice-President of the Society, then read the semi-annual address, on Bloodletting in Cerebral Disease.

The paper elicited commendatory remarks from Drs. J. McNaughton, Cogswell and others.

On motion of Dr. J. MCNAUGHTON, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Vanderpoel for the very interesting paper read before the Society, and that a copy of the same be deposited in the archives of the Society.

Drs. J. MCNAUGHTON and QUACKENBUSH each reported a case of cerebral disease.

On motion of Dr. WARREN, the Society adjourned.

LEVI MOORE, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 13, 1860.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, November 13th, 1860.

Dr. WM. F. CARTER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. ARMSBY, ATHERLY, BAILEY, BOULWARE, BABCOCK, COGSWELL, CRAIG, J. H. CASE, EDMESTON, FOWLER, FREEMAN, HUN, HOFF, HELME, KILMER, LOCKROW, LANSING, J. MCNAUGHTON, H. G. MCNAUGHTON, H. MARCH, C. D. MOSHER, MCMURDY, J. W. MOORE, MYERS, MEAD, LEVI MOORE, NORTHROP, NEWCOMB, PORTER, POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, B. P. STAATS, C. P. STAATS, SWINBURNE, SIMS, SHILAND, SABIN, T. SMITH, C. H. SMITH, STEINART, TOWNSEND, VANDERPOEL, WHITBECK, WILLARD, WELCH, WINNE, WARREN, WANDS, YOUNG.

Dr. VANDERPOEL, Chairman of the committee "to secure mortuary statistics, in the city of Albany," made a verbal report to the effect that the matter had been presented to the Common Council, but had not received any action in that body.

Dr. Bailey, Treasurer of the Society, made a verbal report, stating that the funds of the Society on hand amounted to over $100.

On motion of Dr. Quackenbush, Prof. Chas. H. Porter was added to the committee on "Medico-legal testimony."

Dr. Vanderpoel reported, that the credentials of the following gentlemen had been examined and found satisfactory; whereupon, they were admitted members of the Society:

Drs. J. N. Northrop, J. R. Boulware, J. Atherly, Wm. B. Chambers, M. L. Mead, John Sheriff, A. S. Harlow, C. D. Mosher, J. L. Welch, W. Kilmer, J. V. Lansing, J. W. Moore.

The following gentlemen were proposed for members:

By Dr. Whitbeck: Dr. Lester R. Carrier, Green Island.

By Dr. Swinburne: Dr. Wesley Blaisdell, Coeymans.

By Dr. Warren: F. G. Mosher, Coeymans.

By Dr. Babcock: Dr. S. H. Udell.*

Dr. Carter, President of the Society, then read the annual address† on Hydrophobia, making a detailed report of two cases which had occurred in the writer's practice.

On motion of Dr. B. P. Staats, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Carter for his very interesting address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

Dr. B. P. Staats offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That, hereafter, this Society will not admit any physician as a member who deals in patent or quack medicines.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, it was

Resolved, That during the winter the Society have a monthly meeting for the reading of papers and the discussion of medical topics.

Dr. Pomfret was named to prepare, for the first meeting, a paper on "Alcohol as a remedial agent."

Dr. Hoff reported a case of Tetanus.†

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* Never became a member.

† Reported in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, vol. v, No. 8.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

S. O. Vanderpoel, M. D., *President.*

L. G. Warren, M. D., *Vice-President.*

O. H. Young, M. D., *Secretary.*

G. H. Newcomb, M. D., *Treasurer.*

Drs. P. McNaughton, Cogswell, Quackenbush, Boyd and Lewi, *Censors.*

Drs. John Swinburne, Carter and Wm. H. Bailey, *Delegates to the Medical Society of the State of New York.*

Drs. Craig, Lewi, Fowler and Mosher, *Delegates to the American Medical Association.*

The Society then adjourned.

LEVI MOORE, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *December* 14, 1860.

The first regular monthly meeting of the Society was held, pursuant to notice, in the Mayor's Court Room, City Hall, on the evening of December 14th, 1860.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. BAILEY, BOULWARE, BIGELOW, CHAPIN, DEVOL, HOFF, KILMER, MOSHER, MCNAUGHTON, NEWCOMB, POMFRET, WILLARD, WELCH, YOUNG, and visitors; numbering in all, 19.

The President announced the regular order of business as follows:

1. Reading minutes of last meeting.
2. Motions, resolutions and notices.
3. Written reports of cases, exhibition and remarks on pathological specimens.
4. Reading papers for the evening, and debate thereupon.

The reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting was deferred to the next semi-annual meeting.

The next three divisions of the order of business were announced, but nothing transacted.

The President then appointed as essayist at the next meeting, Dr. John Swinburne.

Dr. Pomfret read his essay, entitled "Alcohol in its Therapeutic Relations."* After which the subject was placed open to general discussion.

Dr. Vanderpoel asserted that the Therapeutic action of alcohol was often unappreciated in consequence of the mistaken assumption that it gave rise to similar effects, both on the healthy and morbid organism. He illustrated this point by detailing three experiments One, where alchohol was given in connection with a normal amount of food, the result being a plethora; the second, where the amount of food was excessive, with a similar result in kind, but greater in degree; the third, where the amount of food was insufficient to meet the wants of the system, and where the administration of alcohol was found to supply the deficit, producing an equilibrium between the wasting and reparative forces of the nutritive process. He observed that alcohol was peculiarly adapted to a prostrated condition of the system, and opposed the common error of supposing that inflammation *per se* is a thing invariably to be combatted by anti-phlogistic treatment, whereas some forms of inflammation cannot be more injudiciously treated than by reducing the tone of the system.

As regards Typhoid fever, he discards medicines almost entirely. He gives a laxative in the outset, if indicated, and then administers alcoholic stimulants in doses of one, two, three, four and five drachms per hour, even in the beginning of the disease, and his patients have invariably recovered under this treatment. Waste and repair of the system are equalized, delirium controlled, and the effect gradually so agreeable that patients immediately notice the difference when the quantity of stimulus is administered. In Scarlatina, after the eruptive stage, and before prostra-

* See Medical and Surgical Reporter, Philadelphia, vol. v, No. 13.

tion, lassitude and other symptoms appear, he gives whiskey in doses of two, four or five drachms a day with favorable results, and without being compelled to resort to tonics or quinine.

In Measles, complicated with congestive Bronchitis suddenly supervening, great relief was afforded by prompt full doses of alcoholic stimulants, in some cases aided by ipecac, etc.

In Diphtheria he also makes extensive use of stimulants.

In Pericarditis also, notwithstanding the apparent anomaly, he has used the same remedy in decided doses. In the case of a female, aged eighteen years, he gave two or three drachms every hour with beef tea. In another case, that of a child aged seven years, an inmate of the orphan asylum, where a sudden attack of Pericarditis occurred, not preceded by rheumatism or any other apparent cause, he gave the remedies usually depended upon in the rheumatic diathesis without avail. He then resorted to brandy, one drachm every two hours, with benefit. On the second day he administered the dose of brandy, and the symptoms became aggravated; then, on resuming the original dose, amendment begun and continued up to recovery. In this case he also made use of blisters.

In Delirium Tremens he made use of opium, and generally used no medicines, but prescribed milk. In severe cases he gave stimulants in doses of half an ounce to an ounce. He insisted on regularity and uniformity in the administration of liquors, and advised caution against excess, stating that he considered the odor of the breath to be a certain indication of the system being overcharged.

In Phthisis he also uses whiskey, which, in his opinion, acts like cod liver oil, with the additional recommendation that it enters the blood immediately through the stomach, and thus acts more promptly than the oil, which has to undergo a more extended and complicated process of digestion.

Dr. Swinburne next made some remarks regarding the use of achohol as a remedy in disease, reciting his experience in Typhus fever, in the Albany County Alms House in 1851. Here the treatment consisted of tonics and stimulants, with nourishing soups, the mortality amounting to fifteen per cent. During the same year, 1851, there were between two and three thousand cases on Ward Island, of which the deaths amounted to twenty-five per cent, despite of good hospital and other accommodations. The Ward Island people accounted for the difference of mortality by claiming to receive the cases immediately from shipboard, and thus having to deal with the disease in its severest form. Dr. Swinburne mentioned that there the dose of brandy ranged from one pint to one quart per diem, while here it never exceeded ten ounces.

Dr. Swinburne then announced the subject for his essay for the next meeting as "Dislocations of the Hip, and Methods of Reduction."

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *January* 18, 1861.

The Society met in the Common Council Chamber, January 18th, 1861.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Bailey, Babcock, Chapin, Edmeston, Freeman, Hoff, Lansing, Mosher, Newcomb, Pomfret, Quackenbush, Steinart, Swinburne, Welch, Warren, Willard, Young, besides seven visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Hoff moved that they be amended by inserting a synopsis of the essay read by Dr. Pomfret at the last meeting, entitled, "Alcohol as a remedial agent."

Carried.

ALCOHOL AS A REMEDIAL AGENT.

Dr. JAMES E. POMFRET read a paper, as announced previously, on "Alcohol as a remedial agent." He considered the subject, first, as to the indications of its use, based upon physiological conditions; and second, as to the indications for its use, afforded by experience in the treatment of disease. He omitted to speak of the effects of anhydrous alcohol, as it is never used in medicine. It is only used diluted, flavored and colored, as in gin, whisky, wine and brandy.

When alcohol is taken into the stomach, it at once passes into the circulation. In large doses it manifests its effects within a few minutes. The experiments of Davis would prove that, while it acted at once upon the nervous and muscular tissue in small doses, within thirty minutes there is a quickening of the heart's action, while its fullness and force remain unaltered. He alluded to the experiment of Dr. Hanson igniting the blood taken from a man who had imbibed largely of alcohol, it burning with a blue flame for thirty seconds.

In large doses it is said to increase the rapidity and force of the heart's contractions, exalts the organic functions, and especially stimulates the encephalic centers. He spoke of Dr. Bence Jones' theory of its changing the composition of the blood and effecting the nutrition of every organ in the body, and of its having its own peculiar poisonous action on the muscles and the nerves, and of its being placed as a poison, in its effects on the nerves and muscles, between ergot of rye and arsenic.

There is less carbonic acid expired, as it appears, after the ingestion of alcoholic stimulants. They contribute to the heat of the body by their oxidation just as the immense amount of oil and flesh consumed by the Esquimaux affords heat to his body, without augmenting his weight or increasing its tissues. With the usual supply of non-nitrogenized substances, the habitual use of diluted alcoholic liquors tends to the production of fat. This has been

proven by experiments on dogs, as, by the common observation, that adipose tissue is usually abundant in drunkards. It has been claimed for alcohol, that it prevents the waste of the tissues, and hence beneficial; but this can only be true where there is a deficiency of other heat-producing power.

Alcohol is indicated by physiological considerations in all states where the digestion of heat-producing food is imperfectly performed, and when the heat of the body is maintained by the excessive oxidation of the tissues of the body. Nearly all writers agree that alcohol has an affinity for the nervous substance, and that it is upon the nervous centers that alcohol exerts its primary influence. Dr. Todd affirms that, when kept within a certain limit, alcohol is beneficial; but, when carried beyond a certain point, its action is injurious and deteriorating. The increased nervous power generated by alcohol when confined to small doses, is not depressing; but in large doses, long-continued, it depresses the nervous power. Its use is indicated from physiological considerations in two widely dissimilar conditions—the delirium attending prostration, and the mania of delirium tremens. In the latter it is not so clearly indicated. Dr. Carpenter has spoken of delirium tremens as the direct result of alcoholic poison; if it be so, why does the malady ensue when the poison is withdrawn, and subside when the poison is continued?

Secondly, Dr. Pomfret continued, the indications for the use of alcohol are derived from experience, in cases of long-continued exposure to cold, and sudden shock to the system. The experience of physicians in all ages agrees upon this point, and the Hebrew counselled: give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine to the sick at heart.

Alcoholics have had a somewhat varying reputation in acute malignant diseases, in fevers, and as an antidote to certain poisons, and in delirium tremens. He cited the authority of that most learned man in the profession, from

whose observation nothing seemed to escape—the late Dr. Tully (formerly a member of this Society), in favor of its use in those diseases where the skin is cold, and the extremities almost pulseless, in cases of exhaustion from cholera, in non-malignant typhus, or where, if you please, the anti-phlogistic treatment has been injudiciously employed. The author cited, speaks with great emphasis on this subject.

Dr. Carpenter's experience was also cited, exhibiting that in an epidemic of typhoid fever in 1836 and 1837, the mortality from the alcoholic treatment was not above one-third of that from the simple expectant treatment. It must not, however, be inferred that every case of erysipelas or fever needs alcohol as a remedy. Dr. Pomfret continued, that so far as his own observation warranted an expression of opinion, he could say that he had never known its administration without marked and beneficial effect. One reason for its ill-effect may lie in its administration. The adduced physiological considerations show that the most favorable results are to be derived when it is given in small and repeated doses.

The President appointed Dr. Hoff essayist for next month.

Under the third order of business, Dr. LANSING presented a written report of "a case of Tubercular Meningitis, characterized by convulsions."* The main features in its treatment was the administration of iodide of potassium, in two grain doses, with decided improvement for a time, but a fatal termination.

Dr. FREEMAN remarked, that this case was originally under his charge; that he had treated it by blistering the back of the neck by iodide of potassium and beef tea, without perceptible change in the symptoms. He had considered it a fatal case from the beginning.

Dr. SWINBURNE read his paper entitled "The treatment

* Published in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, vol. v, No. 17.

of dislocations of the Femur by Reed's method, as compared with other modes of reduction."* After which, the subject was opened to general discussion.

Dr. Hoff remarked, that he had noticed in Dr. Swinburne's description of the process of reduction an omission which seemed to him of importance, namely, the injunction to fix the pelvis of the patient firmly by strapping him down on a table. He said he had failed of success in using Reed's process from this very cause, and upon securing the pelvis from motion, he had no further difficulty. Not only in his own experience, but in that of others the same thing had occurred. He had a strong conviction that in every instance where the femur was dislocated with the head lying in the ischiatic notch the first effort of it did not result at once in reduction, left the head of the femur upon the dorsum ilii, whence a second effort deposited it in the acetabulum. He had observed this in at least five cases, and had few doubts that it was of constant occurrence. There are cases, he thought, where neither Reed's method nor any other will be of avail; such as the disposition of solid matter in the acetabulum, and the binding down of the bone by ligaments. So that, as a general thing, when when proper attempts are made to reduce and the operation fails, after judicious efforts, the surgeon should not persist any longer. He reiterated his persuasion, that the fixing of the pelvis is often essential to success, in consequence of the patient's being liable to move about and defeat the manipulations of the surgeon. As regards the rocking as one of the reducing movements, he had but little faith in its efficacy when the pelvis is not firmly fixed.

Dr. Swinburne remarked, that he thought Reed's method was rarely used, and then not fully carried out. He would have failed himself in his first use of it, but for the assistance and advice of Dr. Spencer, who, having been familiar with Dr. Reed and seen his operations, was well versed in

* Published in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, vol. v, No. 17.

its minutia. As regards the fixing of the pelvis, he does not think it essential. All the reductions by Reed's method which he had heard of had been performed with the aid of chloroform.

Dr. FREEMAN enquired if, in cases of long standing, Reed's method was as serviceable to break up adhesions as Jarvis' adjuster.

Dr. SWINBURNE thought it was better.

Dr. POMFRET mentioned one case of dislocation where Reed's method was tried fairly and repeatedly without success. The pulleys were then used and the reduction effected. The patient died shortly after, and a post-mortem examination revealed the existence of fracture of the ilium. From this case, he thought, so far as a single example could be relied on, that integrity of the pelvis might be necessary to the success of Reed's plan.

Dr. CHAPIN thought that the pelvis should be fixed, but that generally its firm attachments to the trunk fixes it sufficiently. He stated that he had studied the mechanism of Reed's method on the dead subject, when the muscles were in the same passive condition as when under the influence of chloroform.

Dr. SWINBURNE did not think that fracture of the ilium necessarily incompatible with success by Reed's method, unless the fractures were so extensive that the parts were drawn apart, and thus prevented the mechanism of reduction being properly carried out. If the pelvis is strong enough for extension by pulleys, it ought to be firm enough for Reed's method.

Dr. HOFF mentioned that he was present at the post mortem in the case alluded to by Dr. Pomfret, and that the ilium was fractured through the acetabulum, and, moreover, the spinal column was fractured at its base.

Dr. POMFRET suggested that, in this case, the failure of Reed's method, and the success of extension by pulleys, might be explained by the presence of the counter-extending band in the perineum holding the fractured

parts in opposition, so that abduction carried the head of the bone to its place.

Dr. Hoff announced the subject of his paper for the next meeting to be "Delirium Tremens."

The meeting then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 15, 1861.

The third monthly meeting was held February 15th, 1861, in the Mayor's Court Room, City Hall.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Bailey, Babcock, Chapin, Edmeston, Hoff, Lansing, H. March, Mead, Mosher, Newcomb, Pomfret, Swinburne, Steinart, Willard, Young, besides four visitors, including Dr. J. Marion Sims, of New York.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President then appointed Dr. Lewi as essayist for the next meeting.

Under the second order of business, Dr. Lansing presented a memorial to the Society relative to an apparent breach of the rules of ethics.

Dr. Hoff then read his paper upon "Delirium Tremens," after which the subject was opened to general discussion.

Dr. Babcock stated, that in his experience in the Alms House, the disease was treated variously, according to the numerous complications attending it.

In simple delirium tremens he made use of opium and digitalis to quiet nervous irritation and induce sleep. Stimulants were not used, excepting in cases of great prostration. His general plan is to sustain nature, and persist in the judicious exhibition of opium until sleep is procured.

Dr. Swinburne mentioned, that, in the early part of his practice, he had used opium with unfavorable results. For

the last ten years he had relied upon stimulants and nourishment, and for the last three or four had found excellent effects resulting from the inhalation of chloroform.

Dr. HENRY MARCH read some extracts from Braithwaite's Retrospect, part 42, one recommending tincture of digitalis in half-ounce doses (page 59), concurred in by Drs. Ballard (page 61) and Wood (page 62). Another article by Dr. J. A. Marston (page 53), classifies the disease under two heads. First, when caused by recent hard drinking; and second, by withdrawal of accustomed stimulus. In the latter case he advises moderate purgatives, followed by opium and, occasionally, stimulants; and in the former, by withdrawal of stimulants and anti-phlogistic measures.

Dr. VANDERPOEL deprecated the use of opium, both as a dangerous remedy and as having no power to shorten the duration of the disease. He recommends iced milk to quench thirst and supply nutriment, and expressed his conviction that stimulants were necessary, often in large doses, to induce quiet and sleep; illustrating his position by reciting the history of a case where excessive prostration was successfully combatted by such means.

Dr. HOFF gave full details of a case in his experience, the most prominent feature of which was excessive irritability of the stomach, causing immediate ejection of food and stimulus. This, together with the fact that enemas were also instantly evacuated, entirely prohibited the exhibition of remedies. Dr. Hoff closed his remarks by suggesting the use of hypodermic injections in similar cases, and requesting the Society to give them a thorough trial.

On motion of Dr. SWINBURNE, Drs. Babcock and Staats were selected, on account of their respective positions as physician to the Alms House and Penitentiary, as a committee to investigate the plan experimentally, and report to the Society upon its merits.

The meeting then adjourned.

OSCAR H. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *March* 22, 1861.

The fourth monthly meeting was held in the Mayor's Court Room, City Hall.

Present:

Drs. Babcock, Boulware, J. H. Case, Chapin, Fowler, Hun, Kilmer, Mead, Mosher, Newcomb, Steinart, Townsend, Willard, Welch, Young.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Mead presented some written remarks on the case of Meningeal Tuberculosis, reported at the January meeting of the Society.

Dr. Townsend reported a case of Diphtheria complicated with Peritonitis and perforation of the intestines, and exhibited to the Society a preparation of the latter.

Dr. Willard read for Dr. Swinburne a report of two cases of Uterine Polypus complicated with Pregnancy.

Dr. Kilmer then read his essay on "The Generation of Heat in the Animal Economy."

Dr. Townsend gave a verbal report of a case of Pneumonia occurring in the hospital. The right lung had advanced to hepatization, and the symptoms, generally, were those of a desperate case; while in the worst stage of the disease an examination of the urine gave the indications which have been considered by Bennett and others as precursors of an abatement of the disease. The next day after the examination the crepitant rale had returned and the symptoms were all improved. Imprudence on the part of the patient, however, brought on a fresh cold, followed by a fatal termination.

The President then announced that he would read the next essay.

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 11, 1861.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. BOULWARE, CARTER, CRAIG, CASE, FOWLER, FREEMAN, LANSING, MOSHER, MEAD, NORTHROP, SWINBURNE, SABIN, WARREN, WILLARD.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved, after adding the name of Dr. R. H. Sabin to the list of those elected at the last meeting as members of the Society.

The following gentlemen, who were proposed for membership at the last meeting, having presented satisfactory credentials, were admitted to membership:

Drs. Wesley Blaisdell, F. G. Mosher, and Udell.*

The Vice-President not being prepared to deliver the usual semi-annual address, and there being no further business before the Society, it then adjourned.

J. V. LANSING, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 12, 1861.

The annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Tuesday, November 12th, 1861.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. ADAMS, BOULWARE, BAILEY, CRAIG, J. H. CASE, H. S. CASE, CARTER, DEVOL, DE LAMATER, FREEMAN, FOWLER, KILMER, LANSING, J. MCNAUGHTON, MOSHER, MOORE, MEAD, MYERS, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, STEINART, SHILAND, P. P. STAATS, SWINBURNE, WILLARD, WARREN, YOUNG.

* Never paid initiation fee.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

Reports of officers of the Society being next in order, the report of Dr. Newcomb, Treasurer, was read, in substance as follows, and accepted:

Received from Dr. Bailey, as former Treasurer	$130 32
Received by dues and initiation fees.....	50 00
Total receipts.....	$180 32
Disbursements	41 44
Amount remaining in the treasury.....	$138 88

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Dr. Freeman, Chairman of the Committee on "Medico-legal Evidence," presented a very interesting report.

Dr. Willard moved that the report be accepted, and incorporated in the minutes.

Dr. James McNaughton moved, as an amendment, that a copy be requested for the archives of the Society.

Thus amended, the motion was carried.

The Committee on "Cases of Poisoning" then reported, by Dr. Porter its Chairman.

The report was accepted, and a copy requested for preservation in the archives.

Dr. Swinburne read a report of a case of "Exsection of the Hip Joint."

Dr. Porter read an essay on "Arsenic Eating."

The thanks of the Society were voted to both gentlemen, and copies of the papers requested for preservation in the archives.

The annual address was then delivered by the President, Dr. Vanderpoel.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the address be sent to the State Society as a communication.

Dr. Willard presented the following:

Resolved, That the Treasurer and Dr. Quackenbush be appointed a committee to invest the amount reported by the Treasurer (one hundred

and thirty-eight dollars) in a five years' loan, the interest to be made available, if necessary, for the ordinary expenses of the Society.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON moved, as an amendment, that the clause relating to the time be stricken out, and that this, together with the sum to be invested, be left to the discretion of the committee.

Thus amended, the resolution was passed.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON moved that the election be dispensed with, the present officers holding over another year.

Carried.

Dr. Hoff's term of office as delegate to the State Society having expired, Dr. Peter P. Staats was unanimously elected in his place.

Dr. WILLARD moved that the monthly meetings be resumed, and be held on the first Thursday in each month.

Carried.

Dr. Bailey was then appointed essayist for the next meeting, and the Society adjourned.

O. H. YOUNG, *Secretary*.

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *December* 5, 1861.

A monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Thursday, December 5th, 1861.

Members present:

Drs. BAILEY, BOULWARE, J. H. CASE, DEVOL, HUN, KILMER, LANSING, MYERS, MOORE, MOSHER, PORTER, SWINBURNE, STEINART, VANDERPOEL, YOUNG.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and approved.

The President then appointed Dr. Moore essayist for the January meeting.

Voluntary essays being in order, Dr. PORTER presented a case of Scarlatina complicated with abscesses of the parotid

gland and fatal hemorrhage. He also illustrated the case by exhibiting a preparation of the diseased parts.

Dr. Bailey, the regularly appointed essayist for the evening, then read a paper on "Rheumatism."

The President announced that the discussion of this subject would take place at the next meeting, and appointed Dr. John V. Lansing to open the debate.

On motion, the Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *January* 2, 1862.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall on Thursday, January 2d, 1862.

The President, Dr. Vanderpoel, after calling the meeting to order, announced that the Society had been convened for the purpose of paying a deserved tribute of admiration and respect to the late John H. Trotter, M. D.

After a few further remarks by the President, Dr. Hun presented the following:

Resolved, That the members of this Society have heard with deep regret of the death of their former associate, Dr. John H. Trotter, and desire to express their high estimation of his private and professional character. He was capable and diligent in the practice of his profession; amiable and kind in his intercourse with his friends; inflexibly honest and scrupulously faithful in his dealings with all. These qualities secured for him the love of his friends, and the respect and esteem of the community.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, with an expression of our sympathy with them in their affliction.

On motion of Dr. Warren, these resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *January* 9, 1862.

A monthly meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, January 9th, 1862, in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

There were present :

Drs. BAILEY, DE LAMATER, FREEMAN, HUN, KILMER, LANSING, MEAD, MOSHER, NEWCOMB, PORTER, SIMS, VANDERPOEL, WILLARD, WARREN, YOUNG.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Reports of cases being in order, Dr. PORTER presented a report of a case of Biliary Calculus, with remarks on its structure and composition.

Dr. WARREN gave a verbal report of a case of Urinary Calculus in a female, the stone weighing four and a-half ounces, and passing spontaneously through the vesico vaginal septum.

Dr. BOULWARE reported a case of Cancer of the Stomach, and exhibited a wet preparation of the morbid organ.

Dr. BOULWARE also reported a case of suffocation occurring in a child, in consequence of a portion of softened and ulcerated gland becoming impacted in the glottis.

On motion of Dr. PORTER, it was

Resolved, That this paper be presented to the State Medical Society as a communication from the County Society.

According to previous notice, the discussion for the evening was on the subject of Rheumatism.

Dr. LANSING opened, being followed by Dr. WILLARD.

The Society then adjourned.

OSCAR H. YOUNG, *Secretary*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 13, 1862.

A regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber on Thursday, February 13th, 1862.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, President, in the chair.

There were present :

Drs. Boulware, Becket, Carter, Freeman, Hun, Lansing, Moore, Myers, Porter, Vanderpoel, Young.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Freeman was then appointed by the President to open the debate at the next meeting.

Dr. Lansing presented the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President of the Society to take measures and attend to the procuring of suitable refreshments to be furnished to the Society at their monthly meetings during the remainder of the season.

The President appointed said committee as follows : Drs. Lansing, Porter and Freeman.

Dr. Boulware exhibited to the Society a specimen of enlarged and diseased kidney.

Dr. Moore then read the essay of the evening, on "Syphilis."

Dr. Freeman moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Moore for his able and interesting paper, and that a copy be requested for preservation in the archives.

Carried.

The President then appointed Dr. Lansing essayist for the next meeting.

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *March* 20, 1862.

A regular monthly meeting was held in the City Hall, March 20th, 1862.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. BAILEY, BIGELOW, BOULWARE, BABCOCK, CARTER, FREEMAN, LANSING, MEAD, H. MARCH, MOSHER, MOORE, NEWCOMB, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, SWINBURNE, VANDERPOEL, WARREN, WILLARD, WELCH, YOUNG.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Porter was appointed essayist for the April meeting.

Dr. HENRY MARCH presented a report, prepared by Dr. Failing, of a case of tumor, resembling goitre from its position over the thyroid gland. It had developed gradually for ten years, and had finally given rise to dyspnœa and other inconveniences, requiring removal of the tumor. This operation was safely performed by Dr. Alden March on the 22nd of January last, the first step comprising two incisions from points near the angles of the lower maxilla, sweeping in areas of circles and meeting at the summit of the sternum. The operation occupied only three minutes, and terminated successfully. The tumor was a multilocular cyst, and was exhibited to the Society.

Dr. MEAD reported a case of fracture of the Radius at the juncture of its middle and lower third, by muscular action. It occurred in a strong, healthy man, where no suspicions could be entertained of preternatural weakness of the bone, and the only assignable cause for the accident was, the forcible muscular contractions produced by the current of an electro-magnetic machine with which the patient was amusing himself.

Dr. BOULWARE reported a case of Hemiplegia, with intellectual impairment, proceeding from extensive cerebral disease. A post-mortem examination revealed the exist-

ence of an irregular shaped cyst, about three inches in diameter, filled with a fluid resembling, in color and consistence, diluted milk. This cyst occupied the central portion of the left cerebral hemisphere. The symptoms during life corroborated the often observed phenomenon, of impairment of muscular action of one side of the trunk proceeding from disease of the cerebral hemisphere of the opposite side of the body.

Dr. Boulware also reported a case of wound of the heart, where the patient walked eighty yards and survived twenty minutes, after receiving a wound of the right ventricle, half an inch in length. The condition of the lungs constituted an interesting feature in this case. The patient had been for ten years a moulder in a furnace, his employment subjecting him to exposure to an atmosphere laden with fine particles of carbon. The lungs, on examination, presented a uniform black color, extending through their entire substance, and, on a careful analysis, in which the animal tissues were destroyed by powerful reagents, such as potash, hydrochloric and nitric acids, a residue was obtained consisting of pure carbon, one-half ounce of tissue yielding fourteen grains of carbon, which was preserved and exhibited to the Society.

The reading of Dr. Boulware's paper was followed by a series of remarks by Dr. Porter, to the following effect. After alluding to the paucity of observations on this subject, he directed the Society's attention to the differences between spurious and true melanosis, the latter of which was first investigated by the celebrated Laennec.

True melanosis, Dr. Porter continued, is more rarely observed in the lung than in certain other structures; for example, the eye, the brain, the liver and spleen, and the deposit is readily decomposed by chlorine, potash, and nitric and hydrochloric acids; whereas, the deposit of free carbon, as in Dr. Boulware's case, is not attacked by these reagents, and is, moreover, combustible, resulting in the formation of carbonic acid, which leaves no doubt as to its

nature. Hasse, of Berlin, first analyzed the black deposit found in the lungs of aged persons, identifying it with carbon. Dr. Pierson corroborated this fact, as did also Drs. Gregory and Christison. Afterward Dr. Thompson reported a number of cases to the Medical Society of Glascow. In one of these cases we are left in doubt as to its precise character, inasmuch as he described the deposit as very soluble in pure water, less soluble in salt water, and not at all in alcohol; whereas, carbon is equally insoluble in all these menstrua.

Respecting the influence of these deposits on the health of the individual, continued Dr. Porter, the symptoms are variable. In many cases no pulmonary symptoms are observed; in some they resemble those of Phthisis, the principal feature being the expectoration of black colored sputa.

It is to be regretted that few accurate experiments have been made to determine the quantity of carbon deposited in lung tissue. In Dr. Boulware's case, half an ounce of tissue furnished fourteen grains, amounting to about six per cent of the weight of the lung; so that, if we assume that the carbon was uniformly distributed, a pair of adult lungs weighing fifty ounces would contain three ounces. One case is reported in which two ounces were found in both lungs; and Dr. Graham has reported two cases, both colliers and healthy men, from the lungs of one of whom twenty-five per cent, and the other twenty-two per cent of pure carbon was obtained, amounting to over twelve ounces contained in the lungs.

Dr. Porter continued: This deposit is most commonly seen in the lungs of those whose occupation exposes them to an atmosphere containing free carbon, as, for example, moulders and colliers, and, in a case of Dr. Watson, a stoker, but it has been observed in individuals not thus exposed. Moreover, in some coal mines the thing has never been known to occur; in others it was limited to the class of laborers occupied in working and removing

the stone formation interspersed between coal strata. Again, cases have been observed where the peculiar black expectoration has appeared many years after the exposure to the coal dust has been suspended. Dr. Porter then alluded to the existing differences of opinion in regard to the origin of the deposit, certain high authorities attributing it to the mechanical lodgment of coal dust, while others believe it to be a product of secretion. He found the former ground is held by Drs. Pierson and Thompson, while Hasse, of Berlin, and others refer it to a process of secretion. Drs. Bennett and Rokitanski express no positive opinion, and some attribute it to the decomposition of carbonic acid from the atmosphere. Also, one theory supposes the blood to be in a morbid state, being highly carbonized, and that the inhalation of carbon from the air induces the secretion, so that it continues even after the individual is no longer exposed to the exciting cause. Dr. Porter then rehearsed a case which came under Dr. Gregory's observation, that of a man who had been a soldier, but who was occupied as a collier during the last ten years of his life. Being taken ill, he was conveyed to the hospital, and placed under Dr. Gregory's treatment. He had dyspnœa, and a paroxysmal cough, with expectoration of mucus and black sputa. Pulmonary inflammation supervened, his urine was albuminous, and his lower limbs œdematous.

Three weeks after admission to the hospital, he died. At the autopsy, the lungs were found adherent to the pleura, the pleura costalis thickened, and in one place ossified, so that several ribs were connected by bony union. The right lung was disorganized, and had several cavities filled with inky fluid. The left lung contained no cavities and no tubercles, but was studded with small black points. These lungs were analyzed by Dr. Christison, and the black substance subjected to distillation, which resulted in the formation of the usual products of the distillation of coal, viz.: illuminating gas, fluid naphtha, and a solid resembling

paraffine. This analysis Dr. Porter thought sufficient to warrant us in the belief that the disease was caused by coal dust and of extraneous origin, and yet the infrequency of the disease, and its location in other tissues than the lung, he admitted to be powerful arguments against this theory.

In conclusion, Dr. Porter moved that Dr. Boulware's paper be communicated to the State Society.

Carried.

Dr. SWINBURNE moved that Dr. Porter be requested to embody his remarks in a paper, to accompany Dr. Boulware's report.

Carried.

The debate on Syphilis was then opened by Dr. FREEMAN. He mentioned the fact of its originating in man, as shown by the impossibility of communicating it to the lower animals. He also supported the idea that a single experience of the disease procures immunity from future contamination. In this connection, he traced analogy with those cases where one disease is effectually subdued and displaced by another, such as Scarlatina by Variola. He claimed to have seen several such instances. Respecting the treatment, he considered mercury a specific in the secondary stage. In the tertiary stages, he advocates the use of iodide of potassium, iodide of mercury, and other established treatment. In the primary form, he agreed with Bumstead that all medication is improper, beyond local cauterization, for which purpose he preferred nitric acid. He alluded to the lately established fact that syphilis is communicable by inoculation.

Dr. Carter was appointed to open the debate on Epilepsy, at the next meeting.

Dr. LANSING then read his paper on "Epilepsy." He reviewed the theories of Solly, Hall, Radcliff, Sieveking, Sequard and Vanderkolk, preferring the latter, which makes the disease consist in morbidly exalted sensibility of the ganglia of the medulla. These cells being the foci of surface or visceral irritation, respond to such stimulus by

muscular spasms, and other phenomena incident to epilepsy. The pathological changes consist in dilations of the arterial capillaries of the medulla, and, after repeated congestion, an albuminous, intercellular exudation, resulting in induration, and subsequent softening and degeneration.

The treatment was considered under two divisions: 1st. That applicable during the attack, to prevent the patient's injuring himself, and to secure as complete aeration of blood as possible, by due attention to the capillary circulation. 2nd. That directed to cure or alleviation. The latter involves thorough study of the individual case, and the power to direct and enforce hygienic rules.

The remedial agents, Dr. L. thought, should be either the neurotics or hæmatics, the former to create a healthier condition of the nervous system, and, secondarily, to regulate the capillary supply of blood; while the latter would improve the quantity of the blood, either by perfecting nutrition or supplying some lacking quantity.

Of the former class, Dr. L. preferred belladonna, its alkaloid, atropine, ergot, and valerian; of the latter, the preparations of iron, copper and zinc, vegetable tonics (chiefly quinine), and nitro-muriatic acid internally, and by bathing. The results of reported cases and his own experience, led him to suggest a fair trial, in any proper case, of oxide of zinc, beginning with small doses, and gradually increasing to ten or fifteen grains, three times daily. Assigning the immediate exciting cause of the spasms in many cases, to undue quantity of carbonic acid in the blood, he thought any remedy beneficial which might have power to decarbonize the blood.

Dr. Lansing closed by briefly narrating his own experience and experiments in the treatment of quite a number of chronic cases of the disease, the results of which were in accordance with the views expressed in his paper.

After partaking of some refreshments, the Society adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *April* 7, 1862.

The Society met at the City Hall, on Monday, April 7, 1862.

Dr. L. G. WARREN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. BOULWARE, BAILEY, BABCOCK, COGSWELL, DE LA MATER, FREEMAN, HUN, KILMER, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, MOSHER, MEAD, PORTER, P. P. STAATS, CHAS. STAATS, SWINBURNE, WILLARD, WELCH and YOUNG.

Dr. WILLARD stated that the object of the meeting was to adopt measures for testifying the Society's approval of the Metropolitan Health bill, and read a copy of resolutions prepared by the New York Academy of Medicine, recommending the bill to the approval of the State Legislature.

Dr. HUN read a brief synopsis of the bill, and presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the members of this society approve of the provisions of the Metropolitan Health bill, and, believing that all parts of the State will be benefited by its passage, they respectfully ask for it the favorable consideration of the Legislature.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution, signed by the President and Secretary of the Society, be sent to both Houses of the Legislature.

Dr. WARREN then announced the death of Dr. Thomas Smith, of this city.

Dr. WILLARD presented the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, It has pleased an All-Wise Providence to remove by death, Thomas Smith, M. D., a member of this Society, therefore

Resolved, That in his official duties as Coroner, as Alms-House Physician and Police Surgeon he was efficient; as also in the various relations of professional life Dr. Smith was courteous, obliging and faithful.

Resolved, That we tender our earnest sympathy to his bereaved wife who mourns a kind husband thus suddenly cut off in the prime of his manhood and in the midst of his usefulness, and that we commend her to him who hath said "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Resolved, That we will attend his funeral in a body and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary of the Society, be presented to the widow of the deceased.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *April* 17, 1862.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber on Thursday, April 17th, 1862.

Dr. Thomas Hun, President, *pro tem.*

There were present:

Drs. Boulware, Cogswell, Craig, Fowler, Havens, Kilmer, Lansing, C. D. Mosher, Northrop, Pomfret, Porter, Sims, Stewart, Swinburne, Vanderpoel, Willard and Young.

Dr. Boulware reported the results of a post mortem examination. The subject, a boy two and a half years of age, had been ill four months. No history of the illness is accessible farther than that he was supposed to have Scarlatina.

The body was œdematous throughout. The left pleural cavity contained two pints of yellowish serum, the lung being proportionately diminished in size. The right lung was bound to the mediastinum and diaphragm by dense adhesions. It was much diminished in volume and its substance dense and non-crepitant. The pericardium contained 2½ ounces of sero-purulent fluid, and its entire cavity was lined with an exudation of lymph, forming a firm fibrinous membrane three-eights of an inch in thickness, and presenting, under the microscope, evidences of organization and vascularity.

The peritoneal cavity contained several pints of yellowish serum. The liver was altered in color and thin sections of its tissue were seen, under the microscope, to contain an abnormal amount of oil-globules.

A preparation and colored descriptive drawing of the heart was exhibited to the Society.

Dr. BOULWARE also reported "A case of Pneumonia and Diphtheria supervening on Rubeola." The patient, a delicate lad, sixteen years of age, was seized with symptoms of a severe attack of pneumonia while convalescing from measles. On the third day of this illness diphtheritic patches of membrane made their appearance on the fauces, and on the fifth day a membranous cast of the trachea was coughed up. The treatment consisted in administering tonics, stimulants and nutritious food, with hydrochloric acid and chlorate of potash. The case was characterized by continued diminution of the heart's action and constant prostration. Death ensued in one week from the beginning of the attack, and a pos-tmortem examination confirmed the diagnosis of pneumonia, the right pleura containing half a pint of sero-purulent fluid, and the lower third of the inferior lobe of the right lung being in the state of red hepitization and firmly adherent to the diaphragm. The tissue of both lungs was of a brownish red color, non-crepitant, denser than water, and contained spots of circumscribed apoplexy. The right ventricle was flabby and and nearly filled with a decolorized clot. The left ventricle contained a whitish clot which was especially remarkable for its unusual toughness and density. It was intricately entangled among the columnæ carneæ, and so nearly organized as to exhibit, under the microscope, a fibrillated mass capable of being divided into an almost indefinite number of filaments.

Dr. SWINBURNE remarked upon this latter feature of the case, and mentioned a similar one which he had seen with Dr. Cogswell. The patient had cholera, and was pulseless on the second day. At the post-mortem examination, the heart was found to be completely filled with a coagulum, with the exception of a small space in the left ventricle. Dr. Swinburne thought that additional interest attached to the case reported by Dr. Boulware, from the fact of diph-

theria being present, and expressed his opinion that the patient must have been dying a week, *i. e.*, the coagulum must have been forming during that time, in order to have become so firm and so nearly organized.

Dr. Hun observed that in certain cases the coagulum was found to bear marks of indentation, produced by the movements of the valves, which would enable the observer to determine whether the clot was formed before life became extinct. He enquired whether any such indications were observed in this case, and was answered in the negative.

Dr. Carter, who was appointed to open the debate on Epilepsy, was not present.

Dr. Northrop made a few remarks upon this subject, and concluded by recommending very highly the use of iron in connection with large doses of stramonium.

Dr. Porter then read the essay of the evening, "A case of Supposed Poisoning by Strychnia." The patient, Mrs. A——, a delicate lady, 34 years of age, ate a very hearty dinner, about 4 o'clock, P. M. Five hours afterwards she ate an apple, and drank a glass of beer, which she pronounced to be bitter. Half an hour later she was seized with faintness, distress at the stomach, and spasms. These spasms were described by a neighbor as follows: "The arms were extended and the hands clenched; there was a jerking motion to the arms; her teeth were set, and her lips open; there seemed to be a heaving of the chest; there were no movements of the lower limbs." The physician, who was called in, described them thus: "The forearms were flexed on the arms, and agitated by incessant twitching; the muscles of the face, especially those of the left side, twitched; there was also convulsive heaving of the chest." She soon died, not in a spasm, nor in coma, but quietly. An autopsy was held fourteen hours after death. Unusual rigidity of the muscles was observed, but no lesion of any organ sufficient to account for death. The stomach and intestines were reserved for chemical analysis.

This was conducted by Dr. Porter, in a thorough and

exhaustive manner, but no poison whatever was collected. Before making the analysis, the contents of the stomach were carefully noted. They weighed nearly eleven ounces, and consisted nearly all of solid, half-masticated, and totally undigested masses of baked beans, principally unbroken, roasted potatoes, in large lumps, potato skins (one piece more than two square inches in area), a large quantity of pickles, many pieces being three-fourths, and one piece an inch in length; also, portions of the skin and core of apples, with lumps of the flesh.

These materials had an unpleasant, vinous odor, as of a putrefying and fermenting mass. From this condition of things, and other circumstances in connection with the absence of poison, Dr. Porter concluded that this undigested food was the immediate cause of death, and reviews the arguments in favor of the theory of poisoning by strychnia as follows: 1st. Mrs. A., after drinking the beer, remarked upon its bitterness, and regretted having drank it. Dr. Porter attaches no importance to this fact, as in the majority of cases one not accustomed to its use, and especially a lady, would be likely to complain of its bitter taste.

2nd. The case was characterized by spasms occurring shortly after taking the beer. To this, Dr. Porter replied that the spasms were limited to the upper extremities, that no opisthotonos, no incurvation of the soles of the feet, no tetanic convulsions were present, and that there was no flushing of the countenance, or interruption of respiration.

3rd. The muscles were unusually rigid after death. To this it is replied that there was no incurvation of the feet, and that the body lay in a perfectly natural position.

4th. The *non-detection* of strychnia does not prove its *absence*. In answer to this, Dr. Porter remarked that: *First*. The methods used for detecting strychnia have proved successful in many cases examined by others, and in *three* examined by himself. *Second*. That strychnia has been separated from the contents, and also from the *tissue* of the stomach, and from the *liver*, and, in *most* cases, it can

be detected where a single dose has been administered, by the mouth. He stated, also, that this case was peculiarly favorable to its detection, because a large dose must have been administered to produce death so quickly. *Third.* The large mass of food existing in the stomach must have absorbed a large portion of the poison, if it had been given either in a solid state or in solution. *Fourth.* It had not been subjected to the action of the gastric juice; and, *Fifth.* The analysis was made a short time after death.

Dr. Porter then reviewed the argument for and against the theory of death from indigestion, and quoted a letter from an intelligent physician, who had formerly attended Mrs. A., in which he describes a nearly similar attack proceeding from the presence of undigested food in the stomach, and relieved by vomiting. It should be stated, however, that in this attack her countenance was flushed to lividity, and she was unconscious, whereas, in the attack which terminated her life there were no such symptoms. In conclusion, Dr. Porter remarked that he is far from satisfied as to the actual cause of death in this case.

Dr. Swinburne moved that Dr. Porter's paper be transmitted to the State Medical Society, as a communication from this Society. Carried.

Dr. Willard then read a paper, entitled "Conservative Surgery." This paper was designed as an introduction or preface to a series of tables, compiled by Dr. Willard, the subject of which is to exhibit the names of the various military surgeons of this State, together with interesting information relative to their graduation, medical and surgical experience, etc.

This paper and the accompanying tables are to be found in the Transactions for 1862, of the New York State Medical Society.

After a short recess for refreshments, Dr. Vanderpoel appointed Dr. Fowler essayist for the May meeting.

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *May* 22, 1862.

The Society met in the City Hall on Thursday, May 22nd, 1862.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BABCOCK, BOULWARE, J. H. CASE, FOWLER, HUN, KILMER, MEAD, J. MCNAUGHTON, MOSHER, MYERS, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, VANDERPOEL, WELCH, WARREN, YOUNG.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Dr. FOWLER read the essay of the evening, entitled "Puerperal Fever." He assigned, as a cause of the disease, the influence of a vitiated atmosphere upon the female economy at a time when her organism is peculiarly susceptible in consequence of the changes attending parturition. He attributed the disease, in some cases, to the effects of miasm proceeding from decomposing matter, and thought it could be produced almost at will by occupying illy ventilated apartments, especially where the water is impure and the surrounding soil undrained. He expressed his opinion that the disease is not communicable from one patient to another, through the medium of a third person. As illustrative of the progress and treatment of the disease, Dr. Fowler reported a case briefly as follows:

Mrs. W—— was delivered of her fifth child, the labor being normal. On the first of December, the second day after confinement, she was seized with fever, characterized by a small, feeble pulse, anxious and sunken countenance, and furred tongue. The abdomen was rather full, and tender to the touch; her milk and lochia were suppressed, and urine scanty and highly colored. The treatment consisted of embrocations of oil of turpentine, and internally, camphor, and opium, and brandy, at the rate of about a pint daily.

This state of things continued with slight variation for five days, when improvement was observed in the general symptoms. At this time swelling appeared in the neighborhood of the left ovary, and continued increasing in extent and hardness. In spite of blisters and fomentations the swelling increased, and finally matured into an abscess. This was opened on the 12th of February, and exit given to four or five ounces of pus. The discharge continued seven weeks, the patient's strength being sustained by iron, quinine, beef tea, ale and whiskey, when recovery ensued.

Dr. Quackenbush made a few remarks upon the foregoing essay. He considered puerperal fever a very rare disease, and had not seen three cases during his practice. He was familiar, however, with that form of disease when, as in this case, the pelvis is the seat of inflammation, resulting in abscess, and thought that such cases were improperly designated as puerperal fever, occurring, as they sometimes do, in females not parturient.

Dr. Vanderpoel alluded to the amount of stimulants administered in the beginning of the disease as being excessive.

Dr. Hun remarked upon the vagueness of the term "Puerperal Fever," and thought it was often misapplied. The ordinary cases to which this name has been wrongly given, have been those in which inflammation springs up in the track of the round ligament, attacks the cellular tissue, and terminates in abscess, which may open either externally or internally into the intestine, and, in some cases, the vagina.

Dr. Boulware reported a case of Endocarditis and exhibited a preparation of the diseased heart.

The patient had suffered from severe attacks of Rheumatism, and for the last two years was periodically attacked with pain in the left side and breast, violent action of the heart, cough with bloody sputa, and a nervous condition somewhat similar to delirium tremens. This final attack was most severe and was complicated with pleurisy. At

the autopsy the brain and membranes appeared of a yellowish color and the lateral ventricles contained about two and a half ounces of serum.

The pleura contained about two pints of serum slightly tinged with blood, and the walls of the cavity were lined with a layer of lymph.

The pericardium contained two ounces of serum. Both ventricles were hypertrophied, the right contained three excresences from one half to an inch in length, attached to the walls by a narrow pedicle.

In the left ventricle was a similar formation three inches long and two in circumference. With the exception of the liver the abdominal viscera were normal in appearance.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH then read an essay on "Pelvic Presentation, its philosophy and treatment," of which the following is a brief digest. He included in the term "pelvic presentation" every variety where the pelvis is the first portion of the ovoid body of the fœtus which engages at the superior strait irrespective of precession of one or both feet or knees. He then proceeded to demonstrate, from the relation between the form of the pregnant uterus and its contents, that this variety should be considered normal, and that as a rule the efforts and mechanism of nature are sufficient for the expulsion of the child without manual or instrumental interference. The fact that two out of seven children presenting in this manner die either in the act or shortly after delivery, although it seems contradictory to the statement that pelvic presentations are normal, admits, Dr. Q. stated, of a different interpretation, and accordingly he proceeded to show that this mortality should be charged to the accoucheur who may, by injudicious or untimely interference convert a natural and safe labor into an artificial and dangerous one. Thus the practitioner may bring down one or both legs and thus diminish the chances of the child's being born living. The fact that one out of two and a half dies when the foot descends, and but one out of

three and a half when it remains up, shows clearly the danger of such interference.

Having shown, first, that pelvic presentations are not unnatural, and second, that unassisted nature is competent to effect delivery, Dr. Quackenbush proceeded to lay down the following four rules:

1st. Be very cautious and yet exact in making the diagnosis; this caution being considered necessary in order to avoid a premature rupture of the membranes.

2d. Abstain from all interference until the first physiological stage of labor is completed. At this time the os uteri is dilating, the fœtus is being compressed upon itself and its head being fixed so as to present its smallest diameter; consequently until this stage is perfectly completed, interference is fraught with immediate danger to the child from the compressible portion of its body being subjected to undue pressure.

3d. Use no tractive power, but let the fœtus be delivered by the expulsive power of the uterus alone.

4th. Allow the child to pass down in the direction that nature adopts, and facilitate the movements as in vertex presentations.

Dr. Pomfret moved that Dr. Quackenbush's paper be communicated to the State Medical Society. Carried.

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 10, 1862.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held in the City Hall on Tuesday, June 10th, 1862.

Dr. L. G. Warren, Vice-President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Bigelow, Babcock, Boulware, Case, Craig, Fowler, Mosher, Myers, Moore, Northrop, Newcomb,

POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, SWINBURNE, STEINART, STAATS, VANDERPOEL, WARREN, WILLARD, YOUNG.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Quackenbush: Drs. Parmele and Ashael Burt.

By Dr. Moore: Dr. Thos. Becket.

By Dr. Pomfret: Drs. H. R. Haskins and J. D. Havens.

By Dr. Boulware: Dr. F. J. Mattimore.

The Vice-President, Dr. WARREN, then delivered the semi-annual address.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Warren for his able and interesting address, and that it be communicated to the State Medical Society. Carried.

Dr. SWINBURNE having recently returned from his professional labors in the field, made a few remarks and exhibited a number of interesting specimens of bones shattered by minnie balls.

The Society then adjourned.

OSCAR H. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *September* 23, 1862.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall, on Tuesday, September 23rd, 1862.

The object of the meeting was stated by the President, Dr. VANDERPOEL, as follows:

GENTLEMEN: It is my painful duty to announce to you the death of one of our members—to me a near and valued friend.

After a long and peculiarly painful illness, Dr. FREDERICK C. ADAMS died yesterday—his mind clear and unsullied to the last moment; his last act the partaking of the communion, an acknowledgment of his faith and trust.

Through the weary hours of sickness, the long periods of constant pain, he was scarcely heard to utter a real murmur, and could always summon a cheerful look and word to those about him.

Dr. Adams pursued his medical studies under the direction of Dr. March, and was admitted to the profession in the early part of 1847. The first years of his practice were at his native village, Catskill. Subsequently he acted as surgeon for some time on the steamships running from New York to the Isthmus, and settled in this city in the spring of 1853.

So long as his strength would permit, he was assiduous and earnest in the practice of his profession. I think it may be safely asserted, the welfare of any patient entrusted to his care never suffered from indifference or neglect.

For some years past, his waning health gradually withdrew him from the active peformance of professional duties.

There were certain traits of character which of necessity made his friendships deep and abiding; wherever his confidence was given no trivial incident could shake it; he was in the largest expression *truly loyal*. The interests of a friend were always safe in his keeping, and would always be defended from malicious assaults.

In the absorbing cares which press upon me, very imperfect justice can be done to the memory of such a friend. Yet his character can be briefly expressed, in two of the noblest elements of manhood—a true, loyal man, and a Christian.

Dr. Adams died in his 40th year.

Dr Howard Townsend then presented the following:

Mr. President: We have heard with profound regret of the death of our friend and associate, Dr. Frederick C. Adams.

Though he has been an invalid, the assurance that he has ceased to live comes with surprise, for daily he has been mingling with us, retaining all his wonted energy, cheerfulness, and vivacity, notwithstanding the steadily progressing ravages of his malady.

Those who knew Dr. Adams in his boyhood, will well remember that kindly and genial disposition which made him the faverite of his classmates, and which was developed in after life into those agreeable social traits of character, constituting him a central point of attraction.

In his classes at school and at college, he was noted for a precocity of intellect. He had thoroughly prepared himself for the practice of his profession, but his infirm health has never allowed him to engage in its pursuit with that energy and enthusiasm which his intellect and his attainments had so well fitted him for. Yet, though thus debarred from engaging in the toil of practice, he could always find strength and health sufficient to watch and care for those from whom he could receive no other reward than the tribute which a grateful heart can bestow.

Whilst his illness has never entirely excluded him from the world, it has been marked enough in its progress to make him hourly feel that this was not his abiding place; indeed, his very last moments were occupied in giving the pledge of that faith which was the earnest of his future and his eternal happiness.

In the death of Dr. Adams, this Society has lost one of its cherished members, and we would move that to his wife and to his son be most respectfully offered our sincere condolence, and our heartfelt sympathy.

Dr. TOWNSEND also moved that this Society attend the funeral in a body.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH presented the following:

Resolved, That the Class of the Albany Medical College be invited to attend the funeral of Dr. F. C. Adams, deceased, a former student and graduate of the institution.

Having unanimously adopted the preceding motions and resolutions, the Society adjourned.

OSCAR H. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 11. 1862.

The Society met in the City Hall, on Tuesday, November 11th, 1862.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, President, in the chair.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Treasurer, G. H. Newcomb, was then presented by Dr. Lansing, in substance as follows:

Amount in treasury, Nov. 12th, 1861	$138 88
Total receipts to date	47 87
	$186 75
Total disbursements	63 76
Amount in Treasury, Nov. 11th, 1862	$122 99

The following gentlemen, having been proposed for membership at the semi-annual meeting, were now duly elected:

Dr. Parmele, of Greenbush; Drs. Burt, Haskins, Mattimore, Harvey and Becket, of Albany.

Dr. J. F. Crounse, of Guilderland, was proposed by Dr. Northrop.

Dr. VANDERPOEL then delivered the President's address.

Dr. Cogswell moved, seconded by Dr. Alden March, that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Vanderpoel for his excellent address, and that it be transmitted to the State Medical Society for publication.

Carried.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, when the following were duly elected:

Dr. Howard Townsend, *President.*

Dr. Joseph Lewi, *Vice-President.*

Dr. O. H. Young, *Secretary.*

Dr. Henry March, *Treasurer.*

Dr. J. V. Lansing, *Delegate to the State Medical Society.*

Drs. Moore, Warren and Freeman, *Censors.*

Drs. Mosher, De La Mater, and Whitbeck, *Delegates to the American Medical Association.*

The Society then adjourned.

Oscar H. Young, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *December*, 18, 1862.

A regular monthly meeting was held in the City Hall, on Thursday, December 18th, 1862.

Dr. Howard Townsend, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Babcock, Boyd, Cogswell, Devol, Fowler, Havens, Lansing, Mosher, Moore, Quackenbush, Townsend, Vanderpoel, Willard.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held in May last were read and approved.

Reports of cases, and the presentation of pathological specimens being in order,

Dr. C. D. Mosher presented a preparation of the larynx and trachea of a female 37 years of age, who died of phthisis pulmonalis. The epiglottis had been so much destroyed, that the rima glottidis was permanently exposed.

The patient had suffered many months from sore throat, attended with hoarseness, which gradually increased, until there was complete aphasia. The epiglottis became involved so much as to interfere with deglutition. She could not, at last, swallow any food or drink, and her death was hastened by inanition. The left lung was found extensively diseased; the right one was somewhat so.

Dr. LANSING then reported a case of tubercles in the brain of a boy four years old, and exhibited to the Society a portion of the pons varolii and crura cerebelli, in which a tubercle about the size of a pea was seen located at the middle anterior portion of the pons, and just at the point of branching of the crura. Another tubercle was found attached to the dura mater, pressing into and indenting the right cerebellum. No other tubercles were found. The ventricles of the brain were distended with about four ounces of clear serum. The head alone was examined.

Dr. WILLARD, as one of the surgeons appointed for the examination of persons claiming exemptions from military duty under the late order for a draft in this State, then presented some statistics in regard to the frequency of Hernia as a cause for such exemption, derived from his own and the reports of other examining surgeons which he had been able to procure. They were as follows:

NAME OF SURGEON.	Number examined.	Number having hernia.	Proportion.
Willard	999	111	1:9
Brinsmade	660	67	1:9,7
Quackenbush	408	55	1:7,4
Thomas	522	59	1:8,8
Hall	1,173	85	1:13
Hoyt	216	31	1:7
Crandell	990	105	1:9,4
Bradford	654	86	1:7,6
Hopkins	1,603	160	1:10
Total number	7,315	759	1:9,6

Dr. Townsend, the President of the Society, then read the essay for the evening, entitled "The Glycogenic Function of the Liver," of which the following is a brief abstract:

The bile-secreting function of the liver has been long known; but that it possesses another important function—the production of sugar—has only been known since 1848. It was first discovered by M. Claude Bernard of Paris. Glucose is the chemical term employed for grape, fruit starch and honey sugar, and is that variety of sugar which occurs naturally in many vegetable juices, and in honey. It differs from cane sugar in being less soluble in water, less disposed to crystallize, and when injected into the blood does not pass off to the like extent by the kidneys. Diabetic, urinary and hepatic sugar appear to have the same chemical composition as glucose.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} & & C & H & O & + & 2 & H & O \\ & & 24 & 24 & 24 & & & 2 & 2 \end{array}$$

Glucose has a powerful affinity for oxygen, and reduces certain metallic oxides, especially if they be associated with an alkali or their carbonates. For instance, if to a solution of Glucose some sulphate of copper, associated with some potassa, be added, there follows, upon heating it, a reduction of copper from the form of the binoxide to that of the protoxide, the latter being thrown down in the form of a yellowish brown precipitate. This Bernard called his "Réactif cupro-potassique," and made it available to determine the presence of glucose in the liver.

For the purpose of giving a clearer idea of this physiological function of the liver, Dr. T. proceeded to demonstrate, by the aid of models and illustrations, the general and histological anatomy of the liver, and then remarked that, previous to Bernard's discovery, it was supposed the vegetable world only produced the sugar, and that when met with in animals it had been drawn from this source. He proved, however, this was not so, but that sugar existed normally in all carniverous as well as herbiverous animals.

Dr. T. then illustrated, by actual experiments, the method of instituting the cupro-potassique test, and demonstrated to the Society the presence of sugar in the liquor pressed from the liver of a sheep recently killed, and its absence from similar liquor obtained from the lung of the same animal.

In the first instance, upon the addition of the reagent to the discolorized liquor and application of heat, the protoxide of copper was precipitated, while in the second no such reaction took place.

To show that this sugar is produced in the liver and comes from there, even when all sugar is withheld from the economy in the way of food, either in its starchy principles, which may become sugar, or in sugar proper, is proved by the fact, that, while blood drawn from the portal vein before its entrance into the liver does not exhibit a trace of sugar, blood from the hepatic vein, subjected to the cupro-potassique test, presents the characteristic reaction denoting its presence.

Lest the sugar might have remained in the liver from some sugar diet previously used, as metallic preparations are sometimes found to remain therein long after being taken, Bernard instituted experiments upon the livers of chickens taken from the egg; also from the fœtus, four to five months old, of the cow, and in each instance the liver yielded sugar.

During severe maladies, this sugar-producing function of the liver ceases.

The bile secreted by the liver performs some part in the process of digestion, while the sugar produced by it serves to furnish fuel for the combustion of the tissues going on in the economy.

No further business being before the Society, it adjourned.

J. V. LANSING, *Secretary pro tem.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 19, 1863.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber on the 19th of February, 1863.

The following members were present:

Drs. Bailey, Freeman, Lewi, Lansing, Mosher, Swinburne, Townsend, Willard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following letter received by the President was then read and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Albany, *November 24th*, 1862.

Dr. Townsend:

Dear Sir—Expecting soon to leave the city, to be absent some time, I hereby tender to the Society, through you, my resignation of the office of Secretary. Very respectfully yours,

O. H. Young.

On motion, the resignation of Dr. Young was accepted and Dr. J. V. Lansing appointed to fill the vacancy.

There being no reports of cases or pathological specimens to present to the Society, Dr. Lewi read the paper for the evening entitled "Puerperal Fever;" a disease, as he remarked, attacking women shortly after delivery, commencing with chills, followed by a high fever and attended with pain in the abdomen, vertigo and a tendency to nervous excitement. The secretion of milk ceases, the lochial discharge becomes scanty, discolored and fetid, sometimes wanting. Its course is rapid, often fatal in a few days. Patients sometimes recover. Sometimes there is a deposit of pus in the peritoneum, in some rare cases in the pleura or lungs, causing pyæmia, abscess and death. Its cause is ascribed to miasm, and to this is attributed its occurrence in lying-in hospitals.

In regard to its history, we find a disease affecting women in childhood, spoken of in early traditions of ancient wandering tribes, especially at the time of the incursion of the Huns in Germany under their chieftain, Tamarlane.

The Talmud also refers to the dangers and diseases resulting from accidents in childbirth caused by hard labor, by excitement, by congestion of the milk toward the head, thus opposing the superstition prevalent among the heathens, which ascribed the drying of the milk and the mental derangement following, to the confined woman being bewitched.

The Egyptian and Arabian authors describe pretty clearly peritonitis in childbed, and also speak of the ceasing of the lochia. Moses Mumonides, the father of Jewish Theology, and physician to Saladin, King of Egypt, also alludes to similar experiences.

The earliest English, Spanish, French and German authors speak of the disease, but differ as to the treatment; the latter recommending the antiphlogistic method, whilst the former sought to soothe the irritated nervous system by stimulants and anti-spasmodic herbs.

During the thirty years' war this disease appeared as an epidemic in the provinces of Middle Germany, and was supposed to have been imported from Sweden, and communicated by soldiers to the German women. Afterwards, towards the end of the seventeenth century, it appeared in the larger cities of Germany, and finally at Paris, and from that time it takes its proper place in medical literature.

Its history, compared with other diseases of ancient origin, is quite deficient, and possibly for the following reasons: The progress of civilization deteriorates the physical system; the higher the mental cultivation the more tender and delicate the physical constitution of the individual. Observation teaches us that animals most similar in their internal organization and highest in their developments to man, bear their young without any assistance, and that the lower class of females, the hard working women, give birth to children, with but few exceptions, more easily than those of higher grades in life. Now, since the refinement of civilization commenced about the time of Louis XIVth, it is not strange that cases of puerperal fever were

so rare before that period as to excite but little attention.

It was not till the eighteenth century that Peter Frack endeavored to prove that the idiopathic cases were dependent on the circumstances surrounding the woman at the time and her peculiar predisposition, but that the epidemic cases were produced by contagion and carried from one childbed to another through midwives, physicians and nurses.

In all cases when symptoms indicated inflammation existing in the abdomen, the antiphlogistic treatment was the favorite method, such as venesection, local bleeding, calomel, nitre, counter-irritants in the form of emplastrum cantharides, and in cases of delirium shaving the head and making an application of tartar emetic ointment.

Finally, at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the present century, some celebrated physicians, finding this method, in some singular cases, rather aggravated the disease, began to use opiates and stimulants, and succeeded in a few desperate cases in saving their patients. Nevertheless, thirty years ago it was the fixed rule in all the larger German hospitals to treat such cases strictly antiphlogistically.

During his residence in the lying-in hospital at Vienna, Dr. Lewi had opportunities of observing all the possible varieties of puerperal fever, such as decided peritonitis caused by specific predisposition by hard labor during delivery, by the use of instruments and by the careless manipulations of students, with hands unwashed and tainted directly from the dissecting room.

Dr. Lewi also had the opportunity of seeing numerous epidemic cases; also cases of a typhoid character transferred from other wards in which typhoid symptoms were predominant, and having nothing in common with puerperal fever, were it not for the state of irritation in which the abdomen at that time happened to be.

Death occurred in all these cases in an alarming pro-

portion, owing, doubtless, in part to the mentally depressed condition of the patients.

The treatment of these cases changed, according to the opinion of the head physician, with little difference, however, as to results. The strict antiphlogistic method pursued, doubtless caused many of the fatal terminations.

During this time a few cases occurred which attracted the attention of Dr. Lewi. Though classed and defined as puerperal fever, with nervous excitement, strongly contrasted with the described cases of that disease, there was apparently no other resemblance than its appearing shortly after delivery, and from its frequent tendency to stop the lochial discharge and the secretion of milk. The symptoms differed as widely from puerperal fever, with its inflammation of the uterus, and its appendages, peritoneum and surrounding parts, as typhus from enteritis.

Upon the closest examination of these cases, Rokitanski could discover no traces of inflammation of the parts alluded to.

Dr. Lewi has been unable to find in any work treating on this subject, satisfactory explanation of these cases. They are often mistakably classed as puerperal fever, and sometimes as puerperal mania, and their symptoms seldom sufficiently noted and described. In some works exceptional cases are spoken of, which exhibit no external evidence of inflammation, in which, however, a process of inflammation is supposed to have been present. For instance, Dr. Lacock says : " Very rarely no inflammatory lesions whatever can be traced upon the bodies of the patients who have died of puerperal fever. I saw one very marked and very rapidly fatal case, in which my colleague, Prof. Bennet, was unable to detect anywhere in the abdomen, or in the uteral appendages or vessels, any trace of inflammatory action or effusion."

In a few rare cases described by Torelli, under the term of ataxic puerperal fever, the changes which had taken place in the uterine organs were comparatively slight, and

consisted of an exudation of lymph at the neck of the uterus and into the cavities of the uterine veins. In these cases the symptoms were considerably different from those commonly observed in uterine inflammation, and were probably referable to other causes. But how this hopeless condition and rapid breaking down of the system is brought about is not yet ascertained, and but seldom alluded to by authors. Kiewisch, Sieqouits, Litzman, Meigs and Bush, while referring to these cases, pass them by as irregular cases of puerperal fever.

The supposition of a previous infection of the blood is not borne out, either by the symptoms or by the investigations of pathologists.

The existence of a brown ichor in the uterine veins permits only the inference of obstructed normal performance of the functions of these, sufficiently long-continued to produce a decomposition of the blood in the veins. It would be absurd to believe in a general infection taking place in so short a time without demonstrable cause.

The symptoms by which the disease manifests itself in these cases appear, without previous indisposition, within a few hours after delivery, however easy, seldom longer than a day.

There seems to be an irritated condition of the nervous system, as shown by sleeplessness, uneasiness, and a pressing desire to talk ; aversion to eating and drinking accompany it, with an apathy toward the child. The pulse is quick, small and feeble ; within a few hours, talk, which cannot be arrested, becomes wild, confused and incoherent; the face becomes composed and passive-looking ; the pulse weaker and weaker, and irregular, with definite pauses; the extremities grow cold ; a cold sweat covers the body ; the chattering becomes unintelligible murmuring ; there is twitching of the tendons, hiccough, and finally convulsions terminate the progress of the disease, which lasts generally from two to eight days. In the meantime the lochia are deficient or entirely wanting, the milk dries up, and the

abdomen is soft to the touch, and free from pain on pressure.

Several cases of this kind coming under his observation and treatment, justify Dr. Lewi in the supposition that, probably, in most, if not all such cases that immediately or shortly after delivery, some sudden excitement has produced such a shock to the already irritated and susceptible nervous system of the female as to disturb or paralyze the normal functions of the organs secreting the lochia and milk, as well as the digestion; that the mass of blood becomes so decomposed, or unsettled or impaired, so that nutrition becomes defective and the whole system thus depressed; also, that an abnormal activity of the brain is induced, which, of itself, acts as a consuming element, preying upon the strength of the body.

The important influence which the delicate situation of the sufferer, the condition of domestic affairs, the temper and indisposition of the patient would exert on all these cases, need not be mentioned.

In public institutions the patient's life, history and mental troubles are seldom inquired into, and the physician in private practice has little opportunity to learn the prevailing family traits and troubles of those he is called to attend. The failure of physicians to ascertain the proper causes of the disease thus called puerperal fever, may be partly due to this fact.

Dr. Lewi then related some cases illustrating his previous remarks:

A woman of strong constitution, perfectly well, thirty-six years of age, was delivered, after an ordinary labor, of her fifth child. Upon asking to see the child, although somewhat prepared for it by her friends, she discovered the child to have what is called a wolf's mouth. It made a deep and mortifying impression on her mind, and, though regaining apparent composure from the encouragements of those around her, she passed the following night without sleep. The next morning her rapid talking, bewildered

looks, quick and rapid pulse, betrayed an alarming change. In a few hours she was incoherent in her talk, and delirious; nourishment was refused, and the child not recognized. The lochial discharge scanty, ceased the third day. There was no milk secreted; her eyes grew staring, and the extremities cold; a cold sweat covered the body; the pulse grew smaller and quicker. There was soon subsultus tendinum, and, after four days, convulsions terminated the scene. Not a single symptom showed inflammation in the abdomen, which to the last remained soft, and, from all indications, painless.

A second case was that of a healthy-looking woman, of middle stature, who, after three hours' labor, gave birth to her second child. During delivery, she expressed confident assurances that her child would be, according to her husband's desire, a boy. When informed it was a girl, she indignantly wanted to convince herself of the fact, and could not conceal her great disappointment. A sleepless night followed; a short, quick pulse the next morning indicated trouble. The uterine organs seemed, however, unaffected. She complained only of weakness and the usual after-pains, nevertheless she exhibited a pressing desire to talk, which, by night, passed into a monologue hardly intelligible to those around her. The next night was passed without sleep, and the following morning she was laboring under uncontrollable excitement. Food could only in small quantities, and but seldom, be administered to her. The symptoms became graver, and she expired in convulsions on the sixth day. During the whole period of the disease, the abdomen was soft and natural. The lochial discharge ceased after the third day; no milk could be traced in the breast. During all her delirious talking, it was plainly apparent how completely her mind had been possessed with the idea of bearing a son. Two other similar cases had been observed by Dr. L., but to detail them would only be a repetition.

A fifth case occurred in his practice, which recovered,

although the symptoms in the first week made the case seem hopeless, yet, by the second she was considered out of danger.

The natural functions of the uterus, however, did not return, and, at the eighth week afterwards, she was sent to the State Lunatic Asylum, where she remained eighteen months, and was returned as incurable.

While at the asylum she never menstruated, but shortly after her return this function was resumed irregularly, and, with its return, the same family difficulties which, in the estimation of Dr. L., had caused the whole disease, again troubled and occupied her mind. As menstruation, however, became more regular, her mind became more composed, and in seven months after leaving the asylum she was as well as ever, and has since so continued. Dr. Lewi asked permission of the Society, which was granted, to continue this subject at a subsequent meeting, when he will speak of the treatment of the disease.

The President, in announcing that discussion upon the subject of the paper read by him at the last meeting was in order, made some additional remarks upon the glycogenic functions of the liver, and called the attention of the Society to an article of Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., which appeared in the last October number of the *American Journal of Medical Science*, on a new excretory function of the liver, which Dr. F. claims to have discovered. In connection with the subject now before the Society, Dr. Townsend thought the members would be interested in Dr. Flint's paper, which seeks to establish the fact that cholesterin, which is formed in great part from the substance of the nervous matter, and constitutes one of the most important of the excrementitious products of the body, is separated from the blood by the liver, and discharged with the bile into the alimentary canal, where it is changed into stercorin, and passed out of the body with the fœces.

At the call of the President for any remarks from members on the subject,

Dr. Willard stated that, not having given the subject any especial study, he was not prepared this evening to speak upon it, but, being up, he would take the liberty of saying a few words on a matter in which he supposed the members of the Society would feel interested. Members would doubtless recollect that, at the last annual meeting of the State Medical Society, a committee had been appointed to confer with the Governor about making some better provision for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers of our State, than at present existed.

Dr. Swinburne and himself, the members of that committee, had called upon the Governor, had been cordially received, and, at his request, had prepared a statement of what they wished to accomplish, and the method they proposed to have adopted.

The committee had thought best to have appointed a medical agent for Washington, North Carolina, and New Orleans, whose duty it would be to follow the army with hospital tents, stretchers, nourishment, and a sufficient corps of nurses to attend to the wounded of our State, and save them from much of the suffering and exposure they now undergo in consequence of the system of "red tape," to which they are subjected.

Dr. W. then gave brief accounts of his experience at Fortress Monroe and White Hospital, Va., (*vide* N. Y. S. Med. Transactions, 1862, page 414–21), and instanced several occasions where the article known as "red tape" had operated annoyingly, if not injuriously.

But the grand object the committee hoped to further was to extend in the army the principles of conservative surgery. Dr. W. then showed, by a brief computation, how much more economical it would be for the government to save a leg or arm by conservative surgery, in the way proposed by the committee, than to expend for each soldier so injured some $2,350, or more, for pensions and an artificial limb, and then spoke of recoveries of 19 out of 21 cases reported by Dr. Van Steinburgh, which the ordinary practice of the

army would have condemned to amputation, successfully treated by him by the method of extension.

The committee had had a conference with the medical committee of the Senate, and the matter had been favorably considered by them. Dr. W. had also written to Dr. Griscom, of New York, for his opinion, and had been assured by a very cordial letter, approving the efforts of the committee. A sum of $50,000 was thought by the committee not more than sufficient to commence the undertaking proposed, and if the matter was successful in its operation, more might be appropriated. The medical agents referred to were to be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the committee appointed by the State Medical Society.

Dr. SWINBURNE remarked that the time of the medical directors of the army was so occupied by daily routine duties, that they were unable properly to look after the sick and wounded; hence arose so great lack of provision for their wants, and much consequent suffering, especially after engagements.

At the time of the battle of Fair Oaks, there were not, he believed, a dozen stretchers on the field; the consequence was, numbers were forced to lie on the bare ground. He had supposed that preparation would afterwards be made for anticipated engagements, but, at the second battle of Bull's Run, he found matters worse than before. Again, at the battle of Fredericksburg, there was the same want of preparation and forethought.

There were no hospital tents, or if tents were furnished on requisition, tent-pins would be wanting; if stoves were ordered, no stove-pipe was to be had, and so on.

In a conversation with him, Surgeon-General Hammond spoke of one hospital of a thousand beds, in which he (Hammond) said there had been *only a hundred amputations*. Dr. H. seemed to speak of this as an encouraging sign. Dr. Swinburne remarked that they hoped to be able

to remedy the most of these defects in the way referred to by Dr. Willard.

Dr. Townsend spoke of the case of a soldier who had called on him a short time since, and whose story, from previous knowledge of the soldier, he had every reason to credit. It seems that, although he had passed through all the battles of the Peninsula, yet, once when his regiment was making a forced march, he found himself, through weakness, unable to keep up. For the offense of falling in the rear he was court-martialed and deprived of his pay. Dr. Townsend regarded this as one of those cases of misfortune, if not injustice, which might be reached and remedied through some such agency as that proposed by Dr. Willard, where it could not be through the regular channel of the army authorities. Dr. T. also spoke of another instance observed by him during his late visit to Murfreesboro'. It was of the difficulty of procuring the removal and burial of a body from the passenger-boat, which body had been ordered sent home, but, from delay, had become intolerably offensive. The proper officer could not be found to order its removal. An agency, such as contemplated by Dr. W., might greatly facilitate the sending of bodies to friends at home.

In reply to a question by the President, Dr. Willard stated that he did not propose to have the Society take any action in the matter presented by him.

An intermission for refreshments was then had, after which, and the reading of extracts by Dr. Willard, from a letter received by him lately from a loyal Union resident near Murfreesboro', the Society adjourned.

John V. Lansing, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *March* 26, 1863.

A monthly meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on the 26th of March, 1863.

Dr. HOWARD TOWNSEND, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BAILEY, BARKER, HAVENS, LEWI, LANSING, H. MARCH, JAS. MCNAUGHTON, C. D. MOSHER, SWINBURNE, VANDERPOEL, WILLARD.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. HENRY MARCH then exhibited to the Society four pathological specimens, as follows:

First.—A scirrhus glandular tumor, two and a-half to three inches in diameter, removed February 10th, 1862, from the axilla of a female about fifty-five years of age. Four years since a cancerous breast was removed from the same side. The present tumor had been growing seven or eight months. A small portion of the pectoralis major and minor muscles were involved and removed with the tumor. The ecraseur was used in the latter stage of the operation. No arteries were ligated. Death occurred about two weeks after the operation—attributed to erysipelas, which made its appearance five and a-half days after the removal of the tumor.

Second.—A tumor about five inches in diameter, apparently medullary, removed February, 1863, from the breast of a female aged thirty years. August, 1858, a large hydated tumor had been removed from the same breast, and also in March, 1862, another, twenty-three inches in circumference and six and a-half pounds in weight. The present tumor made its appearance nine months after the removal of the last-named, at the lower extremity and in the line of the cicatrix left by that operation.

Third.—Was a tumor discovered in the right breast of a female aged forty-seven. About nine months previous to its removal in February, 1863, it had been punctured two months previously, and injected with a solution of nitrate of silver, which caused it to grow rapidly and a fungous growth to protrude. The axillary glands and breast were removed.

Fourth.—Was an osteo cystometous tumor of the left half of the lower jaw of a girl seventeen years of age, removed March 17th, 1863. Nearly-one-half of the lower jaw was resected. The disease commenced about nine years since at the center of the horizontal ramus of the jaw, and extended backward and forward. The condyle itself, on the articulating portion of bone, was the only part not affected by the disease. It had been punctured several times, with temporary relief, since 1855. In the internal cavity of the bony tumor was a fungous growth apparently malignant in its character.

Dr. Swinburne then presented several specimens of cancer occurring in a female. A full report of the case may be found in *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*, vol. 5, page 83.

The peculiarity in the case was the existence of three varieties of cancer in the same individual. The heart being affected by colloid cancer; the uterus by encephaloid, and the mesenteric glands by scirrhus. The patient suffered greatly, and opiates were largely administered with but partial relief. A drachm of morphia was used in three days.

In connection with this Dr. S. presented the cancerous stomach of a man who lately died in this city. The disease was located at the pyloric orifice and did not greatly involve the surrounding tissues. It had been growing about eight years, at least dyspeptic symptoms referable to the disease date back to that period of time.

Dr. S. also presented a third specimen of a tumor of the vagina, the history of which he would leave for Dr. Vander-

poel, the patient having been under his care during her last illness; also a fourth specimen of colloid epethelial cancer one-half inch in diameter, taken from the right parotid gland of a young man.

Dr. VANDERPOEL remarked in relation to the case referred to by Dr. Swinburne, it was not unusual to meet with tumors growing in or from the uterus, but that cases of tumors of the vagina were rare. The patient from whom the present specimen was taken was a young lady married, having a child eighteen or twenty months old. The tumor was discovered about a year after the birth of the child, and was attended by a constant hemorrhagic flow. She was then in Springfield, Mass. Upon her return to this city she was placed in the care of a homeopathic physician, who subsequently sent her to a water-cure establishment at Saratoga. The treatment pursued had been to eat away the tumor by the use of caustics. When seen by Dr. Vanderpoel she was so much debilitated and broken down that palliative means could alone be resorted to.

In ordinary cases of cancer there is no defined line marking where diseased tissues stop and healthy begin. In this case the limit was well defined. On examination the tumor was found to be more of a tuberculous character made up of several cysts, separate from the main tumor, somewhat like encysted tumors of the scalp. The rectum was not involved.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON remarked that several years ago he was called to see a similar tumor in the vagina of a young girl who had formerly been healthy, but who, when seen, had an extremely anemic appearance. Upon examination the tumor was found on the back portion of the vagina, broken on its surface, and discharging offensive serous matter. He came to the conclusion that it was of a malignant character and recommended only palliative means. He discovered no other disease to account for her condition. There was no post-mortem examination made in the case.

Prof. Barker, of the Albany Medical College, then read a paper on the subject of "Ozone," giving an account of its history, preparation and properties; the test of its presence, and its medical relations.

History.—A peculiar odor from electricity called electrical odor has been long known. Von Marium, of Holland, first noticed in 1785, that oxygen, confined in glass tubes and submitted to the action of electric sparks, became odorous and united with mercury at ordinary temperatures. Schönbein, of Basle, in 1840, compared the odor of electrolyzed water with that of electricity from phosphorus and sulphur, and noticed that iodide of starch-paper turned blue in the electrical odor. Marignac and De La Rive established recently the character of ozone as electrified oxygen. Beaumert, Andrews and Williamson have also investigated the subject.

Preparation.—It is prepared by passing electricity through air by the electrolytic decomposition of acidulated water; by the ignition of platinum wire by means of the electrical current; by the slow combustion of phosphorus and ether. It is produced in large quantities whenever decay is going on; also by the action of light upon certain essential oils, and by the decomposition of dentoxide of Barium Ba. O^2 by sulphuric acid.

Properties.—Ozone is in remarkable contrast with oxygen. It is a colorless, transparent gas with a powerful odor, and acts powerfully on the mucus membrane, producing catarrhal affection, irritation, and sometimes death. One six thousandths of its presence in air was found by Schönbein fatal to mice. It is destroyed by a heat of 300° to 400° F. It is a powerful chemical agent, decomposing organic matters and oxydizing chlorine, bromine, iodine and nitrogen, and A gO, $C_4 H_4$; also Pb S, HS, NO_3 and SO_3. From this fact it forms a powerful bleaching agent, the bleaching properties of chlorine being due to ozone.

Prof. B. then spoke of the "Tests of Ozone," the readiest prepared of which was the iodide of starch-paper, as

directed by Schönbein, *i. e.* paper moistened in a solution of starch and iodine of potassum and then dried. On being exposed to ozone this paper turns blue. Also paper moistened in a solution of sulph. manganese turns brown. Paper dipped in tinct. guiac, and thus exposed to it, turns blue. Silver-foil turns brown, and paper covered with sulphide of lead turns white.

Prof. B. then successfully demonstrated to the Society the presence of ozone produced in glass jars by slow combustion of phosphorus and ether, by the several tests above spoken of.

Ozone exists and is normally produced in the air by electricity, slow combustion, decay, and perhaps growth. It acts advantageously and disadvantageously, and is poetically called by Hunt, "the great scavenger of nature." Air containing $\frac{1}{6000}$ of ozone will disinfect 540 times its own volume of air produced from putrid meat. It attains its maximum production in winter, and falls to its minimum in summer. Faraday detected it to windward of Brighton, but not leeward. The commonly reported effect of thunderstorms turning milk sour, and sunlight bleaching linen, is due to the action of ozone. The *medical relations* of ozone, Prof. B. remarked, were not yet sufficiently known or defined to admit of many practical conclusions, but the subject merited the attention of medical men.

The following facts were submitted, as bearing upon this branch of the subject: *First.* If a stream of ozone be passed through a solution of albumen, the latter changes color, becomes reddish in hue, and greenish-yellow by transmitted light. The froth on the surface is mixed with numerous white coagulations, in which are fibres resembling fibrine. Caseine, thus treated, becomes coagulated on boiling, showing the presence of albumen. *Second.* Dr. Polli could detect no ozone within doors, and hence infers, that persons with pulmonary diseases should keep in, or well protect themselves on going out of doors. He

detected ozone in currents of air through crevices. Hence, drafts of air from there should be avoided. From the fact that paper covered with cotton was much more affected by ozone than when covered with silk or woolen, he explains why, in catarrhal affections, cotton handkerchiefs are so much more irritating than linen.

Ozone is not found in the stalls of stables, and this may account for the supposed benefit resulting from this kind of air when breathed by consumptive persons.

Dr. Heidenrich noticed that an air strong of ozone corresponded with exacerbation of symptoms of catarrh and the appearance of pulmonary phlegmasie; when the reaction was feeble these diminished, and then affections of the serous membranes and cutaneous affections seemed to prevail.

Rheumatic affections are connected with a large, and pleuritic with a small amount of ozone in the air. (*Am. Scien. Dis.* 1852.)

A large increase in the amount of ozone was discovered at the height of an epidemic of influenza, which prevailed at the village of Roggendorf, Germany, in 1846 and 1847. A perfect relation between the amount of ozone and severity of the disease was noticed. The workmen in the sulphur manufactories entirely escaped, the vapors destroying the ozone. (*Am. Scien. Dis.*, 1851.)

It was observed, during the prevalence of cholera at St. Petersburgh, in 1849, that magnets lost their power, and that, at Paris, electrical machines would not give sparks. As electricity is the principal cause of ozone, it was inferred the latter—was indeed found, by experiment at London, to be the case—existed in less than normal, or, in fact, in no appreciable quantity in the air.

Having concluded, Dr. Jas. McNaughton moved the thanks of the Society be tendered Prof. Barker for his exceedingly interesting paper and remarks, and the same was fully agreed to by all the members present.

The discussion of the subject of the paper read at the

last meeting, was, on motion, postponed until Dr. Lewi should complete the second part of the same, as proposed by him, viz., upon the treatment of puerperal fever.

An intermission was then taken by the Society for refreshments, after which, and upon coming to order,

Dr. WILLARD stated that he had a motion to make in regard to expunging from the minutes of the last meeting so much as referred to his remarks in reference to the relief of sick and wounded soldiers.

The President suggested that the proper motion to bring up the matter would be a motion to reconsider the vote approving the minutes.

Dr. WILLARD then moved to reconsider such vote, and the motion prevailed.

Dr. W. then stated that the remarks made by him at the last meeting were made informally, and with no expectation of their being, and no intention of having them, preserved on the minutes; that, had he supposed this would have been done, he would have prepared himself accordingly, and tried to make them worthy of being recorded. There were also allusions in those minutes to a private letter he read before the Society. It was merely read at the suggestion of one of the members, and he had no thought or wish of having it noticed in the minutes. He, therefore, moved, that instead of his remarks as they now appear on the minutes, the following be substituted: "Dr. Willard remarked upon the necessity for additional means of relief for sick and wounded soldiers from the State of New York in the U. S. service, and made some suggestions as to what might be done for the attainment of the object."

The SECRETARY objected to the motion of Dr. W., on the ground that the minutes of a meeting were supposed to be an account of all that was said or done at such meeting. In the present case, having been approved, they must be deemed correct. He believed they were correct. He thought minutes might be amended as to mistakes or omissions, but not mutilated, as proposed by Dr. W. In regard

to the private letter referred to, the minutes had nothing of the contents of the letter, and merely mentioned the fact of such a letter being read.

The Secretary also thought that the action proposed by Dr. W. might seem like an imputation against the honesty of the Society in keeping the minutes of the Society.

Dr. Swinburne said he could well see the feeling Dr. W. had of not wishing his remarks reported as minutely as they had been. It was he, Dr. S., who was to blame for those remarks, if there was any blame. He had asked Dr. W. just before the meeting to make them, and he had done so, without preparation or intending them any formal character. He thought we might consult the wishes of Dr. W. without injuring any one.

The motion was then put and carried, Drs. Willard, Swinburne and Lewi voting in the affirmative, the Secretary in the negative. Drs. Bailey, H. March, Havens, and Mosher present and not voting.

The Society thereupon adjourned.

John V. Lansing, *Secretary.*

Note by the Secretary.—Upon examining the question of altering or leaving out portions of minutes of meetings which have been approved, the President can find no authority for the same, but directly the reverse; that they cannot be so altered or omitted, and he therefore directs the Secretary to have the minutes of last February meeting preserved on the records of the Society, in the form in which they were recorded.

J. V. L.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *May* 7, 1863.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on the 7th of May, 1863.

Dr. H. Townsend, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Bailey, Hun, Havens, Lansing, H. March, Mead, Mosher.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. H. MARCH presented two pathological specimens, one a melanotic cancer from the nymphæ of a maiden lady, aged 52, removed by Dr. Alden March, on the 7th January, 1863; the other, lymphatic melanoid glands, removed from the right axilla of a female aged 32, by Dr. A. March, on the 14th of April last. The disease in the first case had first appeared about four years since, and in the latter, two.

Dr. MEAD then read the paper for the evening, upon the following subject: "The Relations of Mental Operations with the Physical Functions in Health and Disease."

In illustration of the motto, "*Mens sana in corpore sano*," placed at the head of his paper, Dr. M. contended that no healthy mind could exist but in connection with a healthy body, an unhealthy body not only crippling and limiting the operations of the mind, but, conversely, the emotions and passions influencing, maintaining, stimulating or deranging the functions of the body. Many indications, therefore, in the management of the sick may be met by the proper observance of mental symptoms, as well as in the treatment of mental diseases by a proper observance of bodily ailments.

Dr. Mead then referred to the evil results so often flowing from injudicious and ill-advised efforts on the part of ambitious parents or teachers, in overtasking and overstimulating the brains of children exhibiting intellectual precocity, and instanced the case of the boy mathematician, Stafford, whose physical and full mental development was sacrificed to one predominant faculty. Writers on therapeutics recognize among stimulants the joyous passions and emotions, and among depressants, that of fear and despair. There is no estimating the aid of hope or ambition in the endurance of fatigue. The absence of fear carries the physician and nurse unharmed through the pestilence, while the existence of this emotion in others seems the precursor of the disease.

Dr. M. illustrated this point by citing instances of cholera and typhus fever, which seemed to be traceable for their cause only to the previous fears of the patients, and by no means to exposure.

Many instances are on record of persons becoming bed-ridden, all from the notion that they have no power to rise, sometimes happily disproved by some sudden emergency calling for exertion.

Dr. M. would not pretend to explain the modus operandi of mental operations upon the physical functions, or by what sympathy or connection of organic nerves the one acts upon the other. This we do not yet understand.

He then spoke of the depressing effects of grief, fear and despair in causing disease, and first shown in the derangement of the digestive functions. The physician and obstetrician constantly make use of encouraging expressions and assurances, in the belief of their happy influence upon the mind of their patient. He loses the use of a potent remedy who does not make the best of every favorable indication.

The discussion upon the subject of the paper read at the last meeting being then in order,

Dr. Hun remarked, that, while not having paid any great attention to the matter, he should yet feel inclined to question some of the influences attributed to ozone, by the authority quoted in that paper, upon the production or prevention of the disease. The recognized treatment of consumptive patients for instance, instead of excluding the patient from the free and pure air, as seemed to be indicated by that paper, finds it highly beneficial. The irritating effect of cotton over linen handkerchiefs in influenza, instead of being due to a difference in their conducting power of ozone, might, if such be the fact, be explained by the difference of fibre of the two articles.

Dr. Townsend, in continuation of the subject of the glycogenic functions of the liver, presented at a previous meeting, remarked, that since that time, he had taken the

opportunity of testing the presence of sugar in the human liver, in the case of a man who had died at the hospital soon after a railroad accident. The examination of his liver *did not* prove the presence of sugar as at first thought might have been expected.

Upon examining authorities upon this point, Dr. T. finds that Bernard states that it is very rare to find sugar in the human liver. Disease interferes with the process. Even in experiments upon animals it is found, that cutting the pneumogastric nerve stops the function.

In the case of the man referred to, the shock his system received at the time of the accident probably interfered with or wholly checked the process, and in this way its non-appearance in the liver, after death, was to be accounted for.

No further business being before the Society, an intermission was held for refreshments, after which it adjourned.

JOHN V. LANSING, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 9, 1863.

The semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, at the City Hall, on the 9th day of June, 1863.

Dr. H. TOWNSEND, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BAILEY, CARTER, CHAPIN, FOWLER, FREEMAN, HAVENS, HELME, LANSING, LEWI, H. MARCH, MEAD, MOSHER, NORTHROP, PARMELE, SWINBURNE, WILLARD, WILSON and WARREN.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. An abstract of the minutes of the several monthly meetings held during the winter and spring was also read for the information of the Society.

Dr. WILLARD read a paper entitled "Monograph of Gun-

shot Wounds," commencing with the inquiry, Are gunshot wounds dangerous to life? The first and most natural answer would be in the affirmative—that they are not only dangerous but fatal to vitality; and there is an adage that "firearms are dangerous, without lock, stock or barrel." But present experience does not confirm this. It appears impossible to predetermine the law of fatality in gunshot wounds. There are many cases in which serious injury is scarcely apparent, and yet they prove fatal. There are others in which the vital organs suffer to a fearful extent, and yet in which recovery takes place. A sufficient number of these remarkable cases might be gathered to form a volume of "Curiosities in Surgery" almost as wonderful as the tales of the Arabian Nights. Dr. W. had intended to present a notice of two or three on the present occasion, but would confine himself to a single one of more than usual interest, some mention of which was made in the city papers.

On the 5th of April last, an ordinary pocket pistol, while in the hands of J. B., was accidentally discharged and resulted in the wounding of his little child, eleven months old, who was standing near him. Dr. W. saw the case an hour afterwards. The ball had entered in the right side, just above the stomach, and passing through the body at an angle downward, had made its exit from the back at the left side about one inch from the spine in the upper lumbar region.

The hemorrhage was not very great, but the child was pale, its pulse rapid, and breathing labored. It was suffering at the time from whooping cough, and the paroxysm of coughing added greatly to its distress. The ball was about the size of a small pea.

But little encouragement was given the parents. Wine and water was ordered as frequently as the child would take it, and camphorated tinct. opii at night. The patient passed a quiet night and the stimulus was continued during the 6th. There was no great variation in the patients con-

dition for several days. The expectoration exhibited no traces of blood, and the bowels moved naturally on the 9th, without showing any signs of the injury. The appetite and strength gradually returned. The wounds, treated with cold water dressings, suppurated slightly and healed kindly.

The patient was discharged recovered on the first of May. The question of interest in the case was, what was the course of the ball? It seems to have entered over the lesser curvature of the stomach and passed under the diaphragm, perhaps through the liver, a direction and result that could hardly be repeated with safety. The youthfulness of the patient is likewise a point of interest. The system did not seem to be injured by the shock, and nature speedily replenished the destruction. The accident was followed by no serious consequences. There was no paralysis or want of perfect motion, and the child runs about and plays as other children do. Dr. W. accompanied his paper with a pen and ink sketch of the patient, and exhibited to the Society the dress the child had on at the time of the accident, showing the points of entrance and exit of the ball.

Dr. SWINBURNE, in speaking of gunshot wounds, remarked that those through the chest were generally less fatal than those through the bowels. He had known several instances of recovery from the former. Not long since he had had an opportunity of dissecting a lung which had been wounded so long ago as the Mexican war, in which a piece of bone was found impacted. Small bullet wounds, he thought, proved more fatal than those having a larger orifice, and referred to the case of Col. Pratt, in which a buckshot entered near the shoulder, traversed the lung and lodged in the spine. He lived to be brought from the battlefield to his family here, and for several days afterwards, eighty-six ounces of blood were removed from the cavity of his chest.

Dr. CHAPIN related a case of gunshot wound of the lung

that came under his charge, and knew of several other cases in which, although so wounded, the person had recovered.

Dr. Warren referred to the case of Gen. Van Rensselaer, wounded through the lung during the war of 1812, still or lately living.

The Vice-President, Dr. Lewi, then proceeded to deliver the usual semi-annual address.

The subject selected by him was, "The treatment of Puerperal Fever;" being a continuation and completion of the paper read by him before the Society at its monthly meeting, in February last, at which time he discussed the history, character and symptoms, and reported some observations upon the different forms of this disease. Puerperal fever, he remarked, belongs essentially to the class of inflammatory diseases, a class the treatment of which in practice differs not only according to the system of medicine adopted by the physician, be it allopathic, homeopathic or Thompsonian, but even among members of the same society. For instance, while one always advises blood-letting for pneumonia, a type of inflammatory disease, another repudiates it; while one praises tartar emetic, as a cardinal remedy in all its stages, another maintains the use of this agent should be abandoned on account of its depressing and debilitating properties; and so with calomel, veratrum viride, spiritus mindereri, and even counter-irritants. Each have their advocates and opponents. What is here said of the difference of views and treatment of pneumonia is true of puerperal fever. Now, in commencing a campaign against a disease, the physician must have some one system as the base of his operations, or, if more than one system, one must be controlling and the other subordinate. For the last twenty years there has been a tendency among medical men to introduce, side by side with the old antiphlogistic method of treatment of inflammatory diseases, two other methods or systems, namely, the expectant, or do-nothing system, and the system of treat-

ment by stimulation. The first emanated from the Vienna school, and for a time was received with approbation, and made for itself hosts of friends and admirers. But statistical records, both of private and hospital practice, after a while showed that the mortality of cases increased, and that in many instances the disease progressed slowly, oftentimes irregularly, and terminated in protracted convalescence, where, under the treatment of a skillful physician, a regular course and a speedy recovery would have been anticipated.

The consequence was, that the very men who were the first to introduce this system were the first to abandon it, and it may be stated, as a curious vindication of the old, antiphlogistic system, that in the same department of the general hospital where this expectant method was first experimented on, the first very large dose of calomel, gr. 60 to 100, was given in a cholera epidemic of 1850, with remarkably happy results.

The second, that is, the system of stimulation, although always having a place in the treatment of weak and debilitated cases, yet was always second and subordinate to antiphlogistic treatment. But in the last twenty years, some English and French practitioners have been induced to adopt this method as an independent and normal, and even exclusive method of treatment for inflammation.

Now, it is true that there are many cases which require only some stimulative food and drink to enable nature to throw off her burden of disease, but there is a vast number of inflammations of the different organs, for the cure of which we can not rely upon stimulants, and in which their use would be irrational and injurious.

The majority of practitioners, it is believed, are of this mind, and only rely upon stimulants as adjuvants to antiphlogistic remedies.

The experiments of the expectant, passive method, resulted in benefit to humanity, from the knowledge we gained from it that many cases of inflammation may be

cured without resorting to large doses of medicine, while the stimulant method has taught us that inflammation may be cured without blood-letting and without drastic purgatives; nevertheless, the antiphlogistic is to be considered the normal method of treatment for inflammation.

To this method belong all those remedies or agents which, by depriving the body of the materials which go to form and nourish its tissues, moderate their tendency or impulse to an excessive formation. To this class belong general and local blood-letting, emetics, purgatives, and almost all the remedies belonging to the class of diuretics and diaphoretics.

The selection of the proper remedy, as well as the dose, must be left to the skill and experience of the attending physician. Dr. L. divided puerperal fever into the following forms:

1st. Puerperal fever as an inflammatory fever, without any distinct affection of an internal organ.

2d. Puerperal fever, with inflammation affecting the abdominal organs.

3d. Puerperal fever, with inflammation affecting the lungs and pleura.

4th. Puerperal fever, with inflammation affecting the brain and its membranes.

5th. Puerperal fever with a nervous character.

In the first, that is, puerperal fever without affections of an internal organ, a simple diaphoretic, with spiritus mindereri, may be all that is required. Preventive measures should be taken to guard against the development of inflammation in the organs above-named, for which there always seems to be a tendency in the disease.

Where the organs of the abdomen are affected, small doses of Dovers' powders and counter-irritants sometimes bring about a favorable reaction, but if not, and if the inflammation increases, fifteen to twenty leeches should be applied to the abdomen, and larger doses of opium administered. If opium be objectionable to the patient,

laurel water, or extract of hyoscyamus in sufficient doses should be substituted. Venesection should be employed only in plethoric persons, and when the inflammation is excessive externally, mercurial ointment is to be used. In regard to the use of opium in these cases, Dr. L. remarked that moderate doses, say two to five grains in twenty-four hours, will generally be found sufficient. If it should not, however, on the first day show any palliative effect, its use is to be abandoned, but if, having at first the desired effect, it should lose its power, the dose should be gradually increased to an effective dose.

The hypodermic injection of opium or its salts in these cases is worthy of attention and trial. Administered in this way it might have a more localized effect than if introduced by the mouth.

Calomel is to be resorted to in these cases only when effusion threatens to take place. After exudation has occurred, oil of turpentine is recommended, although recovery seldom takes place after this event.

The treatment of those cases where the inflammation is confined to the veins of the uterus (metrophlebitis), consists in general and local blood-letting, unctions of mercurial ointment to the femoral regions, calomel, cooling laxatives, and particular attention to the restoration of the lochial discharge.

When the lungs are involved and in complications of milk metastasis to the cavity of the chest in addition to what has been said of previous treatment, regard will be had to the class of remedies known as expectorants, to tartar emetic, oxysulphuret of antimony, muriate of ammonia, etc.

In puerperal fever, involving the membranes of the brain, general and local blood-letting are required, and tartar emetic in large doses, calomel, two grains every two or three hours, with sinapisms to the calves of the legs, and cold applications to the head.

In puerperal fever of a nervous character, opiates are undoubtedly proper remedies in ordinary cases, but if it

takes the form of the cases described by me in my previous paper, before the Society, the forcible introduction of stimulants or narcotic medicines is without benefit, so far as my experience goes. In such cases external agents seem to me most to be relied upon. Sinapisms to the feet and calves of the legs sometimes bring about reaction, and so permit the introduction of medicine and food in the stomach of the patient.

If not, the head should be shaved and tartar emetic ointment rubbed upon the scalp until pustules are formed; when the patient begins to show signs of pain, and, rousing from her stupidity, breaks out in crying and her incoherent mutterings cease, it is to be regarded as a favorable symptom or change. She then expresses generally a desire for rest, and at this stage it is proper to administer narcotics in sufficient doses to alleviate the pain. If rest is obtained, the pulse improves in character, and food and proper remedies may be administered. The selection of these will depend upon the turn the disease takes, but for a long time strict diet will be necessary and all mental excitement guarded against, for in none of the cases mentioned are relapses so frequent as in this.

After the conclusion of the address, there being no further business before the Society, it adjourned.

Jno. V. Lansing, *Secretary.*

P. S.—Dr. J. F. Crounse, of Guilderland, who had been proposed as a member of this Society at its last annual meeting, was duly elected. J. V. L.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 10, 1863.

The annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, at the City Hall, on the 10th of November 1863.

Dr. Howard Townsend, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. H. ARMSBY, THOS. BECKETT, J. R. BOULWARE, J. L. BABCOCK, W. H. BAILEY, WM. F. CARTER, W. H. CRAIG, M. F. COGSWELL, F. L. R. CHAPIN, C. DEVOL, S. H. FREEMAN, A. FOWLER, J. D. HAVENS, THOS. HELME, H. B. HASKINS, J. LEWI, M. L. MEAD, J. MCNAUGHTON, H. MARCH, R. S. MCMURDY, C. D. MOSHER, L. MOORE, P. MCNAUGHTON, J. N. NORTHROP, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, J. SWINBURNE, H. TOWNSEND, S. O. VANDERPOEL, J. P. WHITBECK, L. G. WARREN, S. D. WILLARD, ALFRED WANDS, A. WILSON, O. H. YOUNG.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting were read and approved; and also an abstract of the minutes of the several monthly meetings since the last annual meeting.

The report of the Standing Committee "For the Investigation and Special Consideration of Medical Subjects," appointed at the annual meeting in 1859, and continued from that date, was called for by the President.

The chairman of said committee failed to report.

Upon motion of Dr. SWINBURNE, it was thereupon

Resolved, That the President organize and refill such committee, and that the same have the privilege of reporting upon the topic assigned them at the monthly meetings of the Society.

The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership, to be voted for at the next semi-annual meeting:

By Dr. Carter: Dr. Stephen Johnson, of Cohoes.

By Dr. Freeman: Dr. Silas P. Wright, of Albany.

By Dr. Swinburne: Drs. C. B. O'Leary, of Albany; Lorenzo P. Burrows, of Guilderland.

By Dr. Whitbeck: Dr. J. T. Van Alstyne, of West Troy.

The next thing in the order of business being the delivery of the annual address, the President, Dr. TOWNSEND, remarked, that "The Golden Mean," embodied by Horace in the words, "*est modus in rebus*," and that other maxim of Terence, "*ne quid nimis*," that we do nothing to excess, as applied to the practice of medicine, had been

selected by him as a theme sufficiently suggestive, and as worthy of the attention of the Society on the present occasion.

The blind followers of fashion in the practice of medicine, relying upon "the nothing to excess" rule, would exclude all the therapeutical agents ordinarily termed medicine, and at the same time be utterly regardless of the same rule when whisky and beef tea are to be considered allowable, and, in fact, ordering these latter *usque ad nauseam*.

It is an interesting problem yet to be solved, whether the substitution of highly nutritious food and stimulants in the treatment of disease, instead of the various agents of the pharmacopœia, be merely one of the fashions of our art, like the Brunonian and other plans of treatment once in vogue, or whether it be the result of logical deductions from advanced physiology and pathology. Would that we could say the latter; but there is unfortunately so much yet obscure in these two sciences, so little that is fixed and established, like as in mathematics or astronomy, that therapeutics must still be necessarily more or less empirical. As a consequence of this state of things, when men, clever in their physiology, and of skillful practice, such, for instance, as Bennett and Todd, of England, dash forth with some new and attractive method like the stimulant plan of treatment for disease, there will always be a crowd of followers blindly relying upon the opinion of such leaders and implicitly carrying out their views as their simple rule of faith. And yet the careful student of these authors discovers a nice discrimination as regards when and where the stimulant mode of treatment should be carried out, and when and where its employment would be injudicious.

Dr. T. would not, in these remarks, disparage the strong tendency of the time toward the stimulant mode of practice, but rather its indiscriminate employment, which to him seemed the great error into which medical men were now likely to fall.

The physician should never lose sight of the great fact that nature's effort is to overcome disease, while his duty is simply to stand guard, not merely preventing impending obstacles to her effort, but giving all advantage and facility possible to her bringing about recovery. How strong and effective these efforts are, we find remarkable illustrations of in the records of surgical experience. In some of these cases, nothing more is required of the surgeon than to place his patient under the best possible hygienic circumstances; anything further on his part would prove injurious. Again, in other cases—for instance, of urinary calculi—the active efforts and positive interference of the surgeon are not only indicated, but indispensable. And the same thing occurs to the practitioner of medicine. He, too, is often called upon to decide upon a positive or negative course of treatment, both as regards different diseases and different stages of the same disease; as, for example, while he might hesitate to interfere therapeutically in a self-limited disease, he would not, for a moment, hesitate to give quinia to break in upon a train of morbid phenomena resulting from malaria.

A similar malady may affect patients of different physique differently, and in demonstration of this Dr. T. cited two cases of pneumonia coming under his observation, in one of which the patient, being naturally of a strong and robust habit, active cathartic and arterial sedatives were resorted to; and in the other, where the patient was delicate and effeminate in appearance, whisky and milk and beef tea were alone administered, and a little morphia to procure sleep. In both cases the progress toward recovery was about equal, and convalescence was established in each at about the same period. These cases illustrate the "*ne quid nimis*" rule of doing nothing to excess. Had the stimulant method been pursued in the first case, and the old depletory in the second, the result would undoubtedly have been different, and most likely not so favorable. Is this change in the present mode of

practice alluded to, simply because of a new and attractive fashion set by distinguished leaders? To this Dr. T. answered emphatically, *No.*

Is it because of changes in the physique of man, brought about by geographical and meteorological causes acting upon his physical condition, or of change in his general nervous and cerebro-nervous system, in what might be called his morale, or finally, because of the great advances made in physiology and its correlative, pathology, thus enabling us to institute a more philosophical system of therapeutics and a more rational mode of practice?

The subject-matter of each of these questions would, doubtless, be found to have its bearing upon the peculiar mode of practice of the present day.

In earlier times pathology was scarcely a science, because physiology was so little known. As advances were made in the latter so were they necessarily followed by those in the former, for pathology may be termed morbid physiology. As we advance in our knowledge of both, we immediately, as a consequence, become stronger in our therapuetics and mode of practice.

But notwithstanding all these advances, more light is still needed on important points. We talk positively about irritation and inflammation, but actually know but little of either. Hence, our mode of treating them must be imperfect.

In regard to the changes in man's physique and morale, we can perhaps speak more positively. The application of steam power to machinery, the practical uses to which electricity and the sun's rays are now put, illustrate the great difference in this respect between the present and past ages. The political and religious questions of the day are also exciting a wider and more potent influence than those of any other age. We see everywhere intense activity of the intellectual as well as of all the nervous functions. The reaction following upon excessive stimulation of these induces a depressed condition of the whole econo.

my. We daily see illustrations of the effects of meteorological and geographical causes in the enfeebled persons of our returning soldiers who have been subjected to miasmatic poison; so treatment at all depressant, acts unfavorably upon them. Cases like these almost convince us that the changes in our mode of treatment alluded to, are not due to mere fashion, but are founded on observed and ascertained change in man's morale and physique, and which have been superinduced by circumstances surrounding, acting upon, and controlling. But, for all this, we we must not lose sight of the "*ne quid nimis*," the nothing-to-excess rule, and withhold stimulants or any agent of the materia medica, being careful not to be *revolutionary* in our withholding or eliminating plan of treatment, as the late dictatorial order of the Surgeon-General, striking from the surgeon's materia medica, mercury, undoubtedly is. A more sensible course would have been to have eliminated the ignorant practitioner who abuses so valuable an agent, rather than the agent itself.

With the views now obtaining in medical practice, there is danger of the stimulant plan of treatment being carried too far, in which case the results would be just as unfavorable as those of the depletory system. It must be remembered, it is not the giving a medicine or withholding a stimulant, or giving a stimulant or withholding a medicine, which effects a cure, but it is the giving or withholding them judiciously that is to bring about the favorable result. A medicine is anything that cures, not necessarily a drug or a stimulant, but either of these when judiciously employed to control disease. The effort of the physicians should not be adapted to a favorite theory, or follow a brilliant mode of practice, but by observation, reflection and study, not merely during the term of his college student days, but through his whole life, to prepare himself for a philosophic course in the treatment of each particular disease in all its modifications.

The practice of medicine must necessarily be imperfect

so long as there remains so much that is obscure upon many fundamental points of physiology and pathology. But this should not deter us from the use of agents from the materia medica, when we deem their use serviceable. We may be ignorant of the pathology of miasmatic maladies or the rationale of the controlling effects of quinine, yet this should not prevent us from using quinine; and the same with regard to opium and iron, and mercury and vaccine virus. When we reflect upon these few illustrations of what may be called the *vis medicatrix pharmacopœia*, it would be reckless, if, as seems the tendency of the practice of the day, we discarded them and relied solely upon the *vis medicatrix naturæ;* the "*ne quid nimis*" rule, the not going to extremes in all these cases should be our controlling rule. With all its obscurities and imperfections, the science of medicine has yet conferred, and still confers countless blessings upon mankind. The old Latin author was in no way too laudatory when he said, "Homines ad Deor nulla se proprius accidunt, quam salutem Hominebus dando." Men in nothing resemble the gods more closely than in their efforts to restore to health their fellow men.

At the conclusion of the address, Dr. P. McNaughton moved the thanks of the Society be tendered Dr. Townsend, and that a copy be requested of him, to be presented by this Society to the State Medical Society, with a view to its publication; which motion being seconded, was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Willard then presented a paper containing a list of the delegates from this Society to the Medical Society of the State of New York, from the year 1832 to the present time.

On motion of Dr. P. McNaughton, it was moved and carried that one hundred copies of this list be printed for the use of the Society.

The following is a copy of the same:

Delegates to Medical Society, State of New York, presented by S. I. Willard.

NAME.	When elected.	Term expired.	Resigned.	Term filled by—	Succeeded by—
Joel A. Wing.....	1832	1836	1833	Dr. Jno. James	Peter Van O'Linda.
Peter Van O'Linda..	1836	1840	.....	.....	Barent P. Staats.
Barent P. Staats....	1840	1844	.....	.....	Peter Van Buren.
Peter Van Buren....	1844	1848	.....	.....	R. H. Thompson.
R. H. Thompson	1848	1852	.....	.....	James P. Boyd.
James P. Boyd.....	1852	1856	.....	.....	S. D. Willard.
Peter McNaughton..	1853	1857	1856	.....	S. O. Vanderpoel.
Mason F. Cogswell ..	1853	1857	.....	.....	A. H. Hoff.
Howard Townsend...	1853	1857	1856	.....	U. G. Bigelow.
Sylvester D. Willard.	1856	1860	1858	S. H. Freeman	J. Swinburne.
S. O. Vanderpoel....	1856	1860	.....	.....	W. F. Carter.
U. G. Bigelow	1856	1860	.....	.....	Wm. H. Bailey.
Alex. H. Hoff.....	1857	1861	.....	.....	Peter P. Staats.
John Swinburne	1860	1864			
Wm. F. Carter.....	1860	1864			
Wm. H. Bailey.....	1860	1864			
Peter P. Staats	1861	1865			

REMARKS.—Peter McNaughton and Howard Townsend were elected members of the State Medical Society, and their vacant terms were filled for four years instead of one.

On motion of Dr. ARMSBY, a committee, consisting of Drs. Havens, Beckett and Moore was appointed to prepare and report to the Society appropriate resolutions upon the death of Dr. Francis J. Mattimore, who was elected a member of this Society at its last annual meeting.

The following resolutions, which was reported by the committee, were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, In the mysterious manifestations of Divine Providence, it has pleased God to remove from our midst Dr. Frank J. Mattimore, a member of our Society; and,

WHEREAS, In his death this Society has sustained a loss which we deeply feel; therefore,

Resolved, The Members and Officers of this Society appreciate the many qualities of heart by which the deceased was distinguished, and that we cherish the many virtues by which his life was characterized.

Resolved, That in the death of one so young and full of promise, we are taught the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death; and, as an

evidence of our regard for the deceased, we tender to the relatives our heartfelt sympathies in this their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published, and that a copy be presented to the relatives of the deceased.

J. D. Havens,
Levi Moore,
Thomas Beckett,
Committee.

The President then announced the next business in order to be the election of officers.

The resignation of Dr. Swinburne, as delegate from this Society to the State Medical Society, was received and accepted.

Upon balloting for officers, the following gentlemen were duly elected:

Dr. Peter McNaughton, *President.*

Dr. Levi Moore, *Vice-President.*

Dr. J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

Dr. Henry March, *Treasurer.*

Dr. John V. Lansing, *Delegate to State Medical Society.*

Upon motion, it was

Resolved, The President be empowered to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association at its meeting in 1864.

The Society thereupon adjourned.

John V. Lansing, *Secretary.*

The President, Dr. Peter McNaughton, delegated Drs. Ira M. De Lamater, John V. Lansing, Levi Moore, to represent this Society at the American Medical Association for the year 1864.

June 2, 1864. J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 14, 1864.

The semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, at the City Hall, on Tuesday, June 14, 1864, at three o'clock, P. M.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. BOULWARE, CARTER, H. S. CASE, CRAIG, DEVOL, FOWLER, P. MCNAUGHTON, MEAD, MOORE, NORTHROP, P. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND, WANDS, WARREN, WHITBECK, WILLARD, WILSON.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. WHITBECK stated that at the last annual meeting he proposed the name of Dr. J. T. Van Alstyne, of West Troy, for membership, not knowing at the time that he was already a member. Since then, however, he had learned that the Doctor was a member in good standing, and had been for many years; he, therefore, moved that the name of Dr. Van Alstyne, as proposed by him for membership, be withdrawn. Carried.

It was moved and carried that the committee provided for by section three, article two of the by-laws, examine the credentials of Drs. Stephen Johnson, Silas P. Wright, C. B. O'Leary and Lorenzo P. Burrows, who were proposed for membership at the last annual meeting; also that said committee report to the Society at its next annual meeting the qualifications and vouchers for all applicants for membership.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Whitbeck: Dr. H. W. Steenbergh, of Green Island.

By Dr. Boulware: Dr. Jacob S. Mosher, of Albany.

On motion of Dr. WILLARD, their credentials were referred to the Committee on Application for Membership.

The next in the order of business being the delivery of the semi-annual address, by the Vice-President, Dr. Moore, the President stated that he had just received the following letter from Dr. Moore, which was read, and on motion of Dr. WILLARD, was ordered to be entered on the minutes:

Albany, *June 11th*, 1864.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, *President of the Society of the County of Albany:*

Dear Sir—Having determined to spend a few weeks with the army of the Potomac, it is with regret that I find myself unable to meet with the Society at its semi-annual meeting, and read an address which I have prepared for the occasion. Hoping the meeting may possess its wonted interest, I am, respectfully yours,

Levi Moore.

Dr. Willard remarked that in the absence of the Vice-President's address, he would read a paper entitled "Memoirs of the late Edward James and Joseph Atherley, M. D.'s."

After the conclusion of the reading of the papers, on motion of Dr. Northrop, the thanks of the Society were presented to Dr. Willard for his very interesting papers.

Dr. Northrop remarked that the papers were worthy of being recorded, and therefore moved that they be entered on the minutes.

Dr. Willard said they had been prepared with a view to their publication, and thought it would not be proper to have them recorded; whereupon, the motion to have them entered on the minutes was withdrawn.

The Society then adjourned.

J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *September* 26, 1864.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall, on Monday, Sept. 26, 1864.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. James H. Armsby, William H. Bailey, Thomas Beckett, U. G. Bigelow, J. R. Boulware, James P. Boyd, Henry S. Case, Mason F. Cogswell, F. L. R. Chapin, Charles Devol, D. E. Fonda, Amos Fowler, S. H. Freeman, J. D. Havens, John V. Lansing, Joseph Lewi, Peter

McNAUGHTON, M. L. MEAD, LEVI MOORE, JOSEPH N. NORTHROP, CHARLES H. SMITH, B. P. STAATS, PETER P. STAATS, S. H. UDELL, S. O. VANDERPOEL, PETER VAN O'LINDA, L. G. WARREN, S. D. WILLARD, ANDREW WILSON.

The President, after calling the meeting to order, announced that the Society had been convened for the purpose of paying a humble and deserved tribute of respect to the late Ira M. De La Mater, M. D.

Dr. LEVI MOORE, after paying a feeling and eloquent tribute to the character of the deceased, offered the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, An Allwise Providence, by the hand of death, has taken from among us our friend and brother, Dr. Ira M. De La Mater, by which sad bereavement the medical profession has lost one of its most zealous members, his children a kind and indulgent protector, and the community a self-sacrificing and faithful physician; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of our departed friend, this Society has lost one of its most valued members, and the community the services of an enlightened and conscientious physician.

Resolved, That in this afflictive dispensation of Providence, we tender to his children and other relatives of our departed brother, our heartfelt sympathy in this their great bereavement.

Resolved, That as an expression of our sympathy for the family of the deceased, we wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Dr. B. P. STAATS moved that this Society attend the funeral in a body.

Having unanimously adopted the preceding motion and resolutions, the Society adjourned.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary*.

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *October* 10, 1864.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Monday, Oct. 10th, 1864, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Dr. PETER MCNAUGHTON, the President, after calling the

meeting to order, announced that the Society had been convened for the purpose of meeting with Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, of Boston, who wished to give an account of his discovery of, and early experiments with, ether as an anæsthetic agent.

Dr. Morton was then introduced by the President, and proceeded with his account, stating that in his early experiments in the etherization of animals, the result was usually fatal, because of the impure quality of the ether then used. After he had succeeded in obtaining pure ether, and had himself been under its influence, he proceeded to make a practical application by etherizing his patients while extracting their teeth.

The prejudice that existed against the use of ether, not only among the public, but in the medical profession, rendered it extremely difficult to induce individuals to try this new agent, and the expense of preparing a pure article at that time was no small matter, the cost being about fifteen dollars per ounce.

Notwithstanding the expense of preparing pure ether, and this stubborn prejudice against its use, Dr. Morton, being convinced of its utility, determined to bring it into general use, but the prejudice against it was so strong and universal that he not only expended the enormous sum of one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars for the purpose of convincing the medical profession and the public of its use, but was himself arrested and subjected to a medical examination to settle the question of his sanity, which had been raised in consequence of the pertinacity with which he was endeavoring to bring this new agent before the public.

Dr. M. had just returned from the U. S. Army, where he was sent by the Government to superintend the administration of ether, and test its value as an anæsthetic agent. He stated that it was used on all the battle fields, and so great has been the change of opinion among the public and in the profession in its favor, that a surgeon who now operates

without giving an anæsthetic agent is liable by law to punishment.

In conclusion, the Doctor exhibited the gold medal of the French Academy, which had been presented to him as the honored discoverer of etherization. The gold medal, the Monthyon Prize, which had never been awarded to any individual, excepting Edward Jenner.

After which remarks of Dr. Morton, Dr. HOWARD TOWNSEND rose and stated that he had no doubt that he would be expressing the sentiments of all present, in recommending that the thanks of the Albany County Medical Society be conveyed to Dr. Morton for the interesting narration which he had just given of his experiments to establish the fact of the value of ether as an anæsthetic agent, and the account of the bitter experience he was subjected to in order to prove its practical value to the medical profession and to the world.

Dr. TOWNSEND further suggested, that a committee be appointed to express the views of the Society to Dr. Morton, and also to arrange a plan for soliciting subscriptions for the Morton fund, which fund is being raised by a society of eminent men of Boston, established for the purpose of thus substantially proving the high appreciation which Dr. Morton's fellow-countrymen have of the great boon which he has conferred upon humanity, in proving the value of ether as an anæsthetic agent.

On motion of Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to act upon the views thus expressed by Dr. Townsend.

The President appointed the following gentlemen to act as such committee:

Drs. Alden March, James H. Armsby, S. Oakley Vanderpoel, Howard Townsend, J. V. P. Quackenbush.

The Society then adjourned.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 8, 1864.

The annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, November 8th, 1864, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Peter McNaughton, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Armsby, Babcock, Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Boyd, Carter, Case, Chapin, Crounse, Devol, Freeman, Haskins, Lansing, H. March, H. G. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, Mead, Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Pomfret, Quackenbush, Shiland, P. P. Staats, Townsend, Vanderpoel, Van O'Linda, Wands, Warren, Willard.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The minutes of the special meeting (relative to the Morton testimonial), held October 10th, 1864, were also read; after which, Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel moved that the minutes be amended by placing the name of Dr. Townsend as chairman of the committee, appointed at the special meeting.

Dr. Armsby stated that Dr. Townsend had done more than any other member to carry forward the measures the committee had under consideration, and he, therefore, cheerfully seconded the motion of Dr. Vanderpoel.

The motion was carried, and the minutes, as amended, were approved.

Dr. Townsend, chairman, made a verbal report on behalf of the committee appointed at the special meeting for the purpose of raising a fund for the Morton testimonial.

Dr. Townsend stated that the committee, after deliberation, determined that an opportunity should be offered Dr. Morton of giving an account to the citizens of Albany of his discovery of ether as an anæsthetic agent. In accord-

ance with which views the citizens of Albany were invited to attend, in the chapel of the Albany Female Academy, where Dr. Morton, to a highly respectable audience, narrated his experience in discovering the anæsthetic effect of ether, and the bitter experience which he had been subjected to in his endeavors to prove to the world what a boon he had conferred upon humanity.

After the meeting, it was determined by the committee to appeal to the citizens for contributions to the Morton fund; and the committee with great pleasure report, that this appeal has been most generously responded to—the sum of $3,000 having already been contributed.

Report accepted.

On motion of Dr. VANDERPOEL, it was

Resolved, That an account of the action of the Society be transmitted to Dr. Morton.

The Treasurer, Dr. HENRY MARCH, stated that he was not prepared to make his report.

The President appointed the following committee to examine the Treasurer's account:

Drs. Henry McNaughton and O. C. Alexander were appointed the committee, to report at the next regular meeting.

Dr. WILLARD moved that the name of Dr. Mead be substituted for Dr. Alexander's. Carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Dr. FREEMAN, chairman of the committee on "Medico-legal Testimony," stated that the committee presented their report at the annual meeting held in 1861.

Dr. CHAPIN stated that Dr. Porter, chairman of the committee on "Cases of Poisoning," also presented their report to the Society at the annual meeting in 1861.

Dr. VANDERPOEL, chairman of the committee "To secure Mortuary Statistics in the city of Albany," stated that the committee had not been able to get the Common Council to act, and without their co-operation in the matter, the com-

mittee could not procure the desired information, consequently were unable to report.

Reports from the remaining standing committees, which were appointed at the annual meeting in 1859, "For the Investigation and Special Consideration of Medical Subjects," were respectively called for by the President. The chairmen of said committees respectively failed to report.

Dr. Vanderpoel stated that there were vacancies in several of these committees, and he, therefore, moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, that the incoming President of the Society reconstruct said committees and fill the vacancies. Carried.

Dr. Moore, from the committee on "Application for Membership," reported favorably to the admission of the following gentlemen, who were proposed for membership at the last annual and semi-annual meetings: Drs. Stephen Johnson, of Cohoes; Silas P. Wright, C. B. O'Leary and Jacob S. Mosher, of Albany.

Dr. Willard moved that they be admitted as members on complying with the by-laws, and paying their initiation fees. Carried.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Willard: Drs. Ezekiel M. Wade, of Watervliet; Wm. Sigsbee, of Knox.

By Dr. C. D. Mosher: Dr. P. L. F. Reynolds, of Albany.

The next in the order of business being the delivery of the annual address, the President, Dr. Peter McNaughton stated that the subject he had selected for his thesis was "Delirium Tremens." He wished more particularly to call the attention of the Society to the diversity of opinions that prevailed as to its treatment both in this country and abroad. Drs. Coates, Eberlie and many others depend on opium as the only reliable remedy in all uncomplicated cases, while Lacock, Law and McPherson and others testify to the use of opium as being unnecessary or injurious in the treatment. Dr. Lacock holds that the

paroxysm is not due to the withdrawal of the accustomed stimulus, and advocates the expectant or eclectic plan as the only rational method of treatment. Dr. Kuhn, of Philadelphia, confines his patients in a dark room, and leaves the disease to work itself off spontaneously. Dr. Ware states that the patient, so far as the paroxysm is concerned, should be left to the resources of his own system; particularly, that no attempt should be made to force sleep by the usual remedies that are resorted to for that purpose. Any of these plans of treatment can be favorably illustrated by the experience of some, although not by others, as the following statistical table will show:

"By the purely stimulant plan in the Philadelphia Hospital, from one in eight to one in thirty-three cases treated, died."

"By the opiate and alcoholic plan in the Edinburgh Infirmary, in 403 cases treated, 101 died—25 per cent."

"By tartar emetic, in sedative doses, by Dr. Peddie, eighty cases treated—all cured."

"By the eclectic or expectant plan, by Dr. Lacock, twenty-eight cases treated, one died from using opium and stimulants."

I have met with more uniform success in the treatment of delirium tremens from the use of camphor and opium than from any other mode of treatment. In my practice they have been the means of making my patients more comfortable and less dangerous to themselves and others.

I usually make use of the following pill:

℞ Gum Camphor, gr. ii.
Gum Opium, gr. ss.

to be given every two or three hours, or whenever the patient is in danger of losing his self-control. Although this treatment is not applicable to all cases, yet it has been the means of making my patients more comfortable than any other mode of treatment. When meningeal inflammation is present, cupping and leeches, with cold effusions, will be required. In many cases, in patients, from long

habits of intemperance, the liver suffers more or less; in such cases calomel, in alterative doses, combined with opium, is indicated, alternated with the opium and camphor pill.

In very old and chronic cases, I have sometimes used stimulants with good effect.

Dr. Freeman, seconded by Dr. Vanderpoel, moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. McNaughton for his very interesting and excellent address.

Dr. Lansing offered the following (being the same recommended by the committee appointed by the State Medical Society to report upon the propriety of medical practitioners advertising their specialties), to wit:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Society it is impossible to define the limits of advertising "Medical Specialties," either in medical or other journals.

Resolved, That advertisements indicating locality and residence, are the utmost limits of self-announcement, consistent with professional dignity, and that all reference to special branches of medical practice, as extra inducements to patronage, should be deemed violations of the Code of Medical Ethics.

Resolved, That hereafter any medical practitioner so offending, shall be deemed disqualified to or for membership of this Society, and if already a delegate to, or a member thereof, shall be deemed a fit subject for discipline.

Adopted.

The Treasurer, Dr. H. March, remarked that there were a few members who had not, for several years, paid their annual dues, and were inclined to persist in not paying them.

Dr. Bailey wished to inquire what action the Society propose to take in the matter, or what ought to be done in the case where a member positively refuses to pay his annual dues?

Dr. Lansing offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to act in connection with the Treasurer, to write to the delinquent members concerning their dues.

Dr. Moore moved to amend the resolution so as to read:

That the Treasurer and Censors be a committee to write to the delinquent members concerning their annual dues, and that said committee report to this Society the result of such correspondence.

The resolution, thus amended, was adopted.

Dr. CHAPIN offered the following.

WHEREAS, This Society has unappropriated funds that have been accumulating for several years; therefore,

Resolved, That a prize of $25 be annually given to any member of this Society who shall be the author of the best original essay, to be read at the annual meeting. That the President appoint a committee of three to choose the subject for competition, and decide upon the essay entitled to the prize. That the essay be left with the committee one month before the annual meeting. That accompanying the essay will be a sealed envelope, containing the author's name and title of his paper. The successful one only to be opened, and that before the Society at its annual meeting.

Adopted.

The President appointed the following such committee: Drs. Chapin, Hun and Vanderpoel.

The election of officers being next in order, the President appointed Drs. Boyd and Quackenbush tellers.

Upon balloting, the following gentlemen were duly elected:

Dr. Peter P. Staats, of Albany, *President.*

Dr. Frank G. Mosher, of Coeymans, *Vice-President.*

Dr. J. R. Boulware, of Albany, *Secretary.*

Dr. H. R. Haskins, of Albany, *Treasurer.*

Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, Howard Townsend, J. P. Boyd, James H. Armsby, John V. Lansing, *Censors.*

Drs. Levi Moore, James L. Babcock, John V. Lansing, of Albany, *Delegates to the State Medical Society* for the four years ensuing.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the President appoint delegates to represent this Society at the American Medical Association for the year ensuing.

No other business appearing, the Society adjourned..

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *January* 24, 1865.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall on Tuesday, January 24th, 1865.

The following members were present:

Drs. O. C. Alexander, James L. Babcock, William H. Bailey, Thomas Beckett, U. G. Bigelow, J. R. Boulware, James P. Boyd, Wm. F. Carter, H. S. Case, F. L. R. Chapin, William H. Craig, Amos Fowler, S. H. Freeman, Thomas Hun, John V. Lansing, Joseph Lewi, Alden March, Henry March, Henry G. McNaughton, Peter McNaughton, R. S. McMurdy, M. L. Mead, Levi Moore, J. S. Mosher, Joseph N. Northrop, J. V. P. Quackenbush, B. P. Staats, C. P. Staats, Peter P. Staats, John Swinburne, Howard Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel, L. G. Warren, Herman Wendell, S. D. Willard, Andrew Wilson, Staats Winne, O. H. Young.

There were also present, Drs. Thomas W. Blatchford, of Troy; Thomas C. Brinsmade, of Troy; Wm. B. Chambers, U. S. Army; E. H. Ferris, U. S. Army; Henry Pearce, U. S. Army; Edward Duffy, Albany; P. L. F. Reynolds, Albany; C. A. Robertson, Albany.

The President, Dr. Peter P. Staats, after calling the Society to order, stated the object of the meeting, as follows:

Gentlemen of the Society—I very much regret that the first duty which devolves upon me as President of this Society, is one so melancholy and painful as to announce in a formal manner, the death of Mason F. Cogswell, M.D., a worthy and respected member of this Society, and an ornament to the profession, and to call you together to make suitable arrangements to pay respect to his memory.

Dr. Hun addressed the meeting as follows:

Mr. President—As you have said, the Society has been called together that we may pay our tribute of respect to

the memory of one of its most valued and respected members, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell.

I leave to others to speak of his professional eminence, of his sound judgment at the bedside, of his kindness and fidelity to the sick, and of his courteous and honorable bearing towards his medical associates.

These qualities are more or less known to all of you, but in the few words I have to say, I prefer rather to dwell on those points of his character which I have had an especial opportunity of witnessing; on his truthfulness and integrity, on his generosity and kindness of heart, on those qualities, in a word, which made him a true and faithful friend. Looking back on twenty-six years of intimate friendship and almost daily intercourse, I find the time filled up with mutual services, pleasant conversation and free and unreserved communication of thoughts, feelings and plans, and feel assured that I may speak with confidence of those traits of character which endeared him to his friends.

His genial temper and pleasant manner made him singularly attractive to all who came in communication with him, so that no man had a larger circle of friends or fewer enemies. Among his associates, no social gathering was considered complete without his presence. The news of his illness caused general uneasiness, and his death saddened many hearts.

The charm which made him so agreeable in society certainly did not consist in an obsequious acquiescence in the opinions of others, for he was very tenacious of his own notions, and free in expressing them; but he was never offensive to those who differed from him, and his very earnestness won their respect, even when his opinions did not receive their assent. When denouncing meanness or injustice, he became warm and energetic, and on such occasions it was truly pleasant to witness his simple hearted indignation.

In his intercourse with younger physicians, he was eminently just and kind. In consultations, he managed to keep

himself in the back ground, to make his suggestions seem to come from the attending physician, and when he felt it his duty to advise a change of treatment, to bring it about without making the change apparent to the patient or the family. No one has done more to smooth the asperities of professional intercourse, and discourage, by his example, the practice of those arts by which a rival is damaged in public estimation. There are many present who will understand what I mean and bear witness to the truth of the assertion.

I, who have known him so long, as a generous and devoted friend, feel a comfort in paying this tribute to his memory and in giving expression to my gratitude for many acts of kindness which I have received at his hands, and for the example he has given to me and to others of a gentle and honest life. I hope the Society will pardon me for occupying time with so much that is personal to myself, but when we have reached that age after which no new friendships can be formed, and come to feel that the rest of our life must be passed with such friends as we have already secured, a loss like this is an irreparable inroad on our stock of worldly wealth, and is mourned accordingly.

Dr. Hun offered the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the Society has learned with great sorrow of the loss it has sustained in the death of an eminent and valued member, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell.

Resolved, That we hereby put on record our high appreciation of his personal excellence, of his generous and kindly temper, of the purity and integrity of his character, and of his honorable bearing towards his medical brethren.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to transmit to his family the expression of our sincere sympathy in this sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the Society will attend his funeral, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel spoke as follows:

Mr. President—The death of Dr. Cogswell is a sad bereavement to our profession. He was in many respects a

representative man among us. His decided opinions and sterling rectitude could not but influence all with whom he associated.

Wherever the path of duty led, he fearlessly followed, and if he erred, it could only be attributed to the judgment and not to the heart. He was thoroughly unselfish, for he took pleasure in watching the success of his professional brother, and extended to the junior members of the profession the cordial hand of sympathy and encouragement. My acquaintance with him dates nearly fifteen years. When timid and undecided as to my prospects of success when about to settle in this city, he warmly seconded my wish, and assured me of his friendship and support. From that moment neither were withdrawn. He has been in many instances my adviser and friend. He was, too, the physician to my family, and, in times of sore distress, came not only as a physician to heal, a friend to sympathize and soothe, but almost a brother to aid and support us in the depths of affliction. High and sacred as is the position of the medical man, his was not ended there. His kind expression, his soothing touch, his earnest words, all made you love him as a man, as well as respect him as a physician. His was not a character marked in the public arena; he shrank instinctively from all such outward manifestations, content to be known and cherished by the true and confiding circle of patients and friends. Simple as was his character, true as were all his instincts, I find it difficult to analyze them, for affection was so fully moulded and blended in all, so wrought in every principle, so garnered in every duty, that prominent as each of them was, this floated over and shrouded all. Long will his name be cherished, and, in many a family besides that bereaved, will his kind deeds and sympathizing words be repeated, and his memory embalmed as the dear friend and the "good physician."

Dr. S. D. WILLARD, in rising to second the resolutions, said:

Mr. President—I feel that the most impressive language I could use, on this sad occasion, would be that of silence—an occasion when every heart is swollen with emotion because a loved brother has fallen, and we are assembled to pay the last tribute to his memory, and follow his remains to their resting place. Silence is the befitting language of grief. Dr. Cogswell and myself were both born in the same State, and were educated to a considerable extent under similar influences. I made his acquaintance while I was yet a student, and later when I began practice in this city, he was almost the first physician whom I met in counsel. A long and intimate friendship has existed between us. I have constantly experienced his kindness. I have experienced the kindness of his manner and the delicacy of his touch, to which Dr. Vanderpoel has just alluded, at my own bedside. As it was my privilege to be pleasantly associated with him in life, so was I privileged to be one of those at his own bedside, and to minister what I could as that life drew to its close, and finally to witness his latest breath. Let us emulate his virtues, and may the mantle of his professional fidelity rest upon each one of us.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig said:

Mr. President—Before the resolutions just offered by Dr. Hun are acted upon, I would do to my feelings great injustice if I allowed this opportunity to pass without saying a word of tribute to the memory of our deceased brother, Dr. Mason F. Cogswell. When about to commence the practice of medicine, some twelve or thirteen years since, I made the acquaintance of Dr. Cogswell, and the cordial, warm-hearted and earnest manner in which he gave me his counsel, and offered me his services as my adviser, warmly attached me to him as a physician and friend, which attachment has increased by an almost daily intercourse.

Dr. Cogswell was a model physician, a sincere christian and a kind friend. In his decease, in the meridian of his usefulness, the profession has lost a worthy example, this

Society an honored member, the city of Albany an eminent citizen, the poor a generous friend. I hope that the recollections of the unspotted character and many virtues of our deceased brother may, to us, through life, be a guide and inspiring remembrance.

Dr. SWINBURNE moved that the Society attend the funeral in a body.

The preceding resolutions were adopted. The Society then adjourned to attend the funeral at Rev. Dr. Sprague's Church. J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *January* 26, 1865.

A regular monthly meeting of this Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, January 26th, 1865, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. PETER P. STAATS, President, in the chair.

There were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, BECKETT, BIGELOW, BOULWARE, CHAPIN, CRAIG, DEVOL, FOWLER, FREEMAN, LANSING, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, H. G. MCNAUGHTON, MCMURDY, MEAD, REYNOLDS, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, MOORE, J. S. MOSHER, WARREN.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH gave a verbal report of three cases of urinary deposits, and exhibited several *uric acid calculi*, the largest was the size of a hen's egg, which he successfully removed, by lithotomy, last summer, from a boy aged seventeen.

Dr. March remarked that Mr. Ferguson, Surgeon Extraordinary to Her Majesty the Queen, was regarded as one of the most practical and successful operators in Great Britain. It is stated that he has treated between 250 and 300 cases of stone in the bladder by lithotomy and lithotrity. Dr. Benjamin Dudley, of Lexington, Ky., stands

first in this country, he having operated 207 times, and Dr. Charles Pope, of St. Louis, Mo., about 70 times.

The second case reported by Dr. March was that of a child of five years of age; in this case the stone was impacted or encysted in the mucus coat of the bladder, which was successfully removed by lithotomy.

In performing lithotomy in this case, he adopted the bilateral operation. The advantage of this method was, it made a larger opening. This was the only time he ever performed the bilateral operation. Dr. M. here took occasion to refer to an article in a late number of Braithwate, by Dr. Ferguson, who stated that the difficulties and failures to find the stone when the operation of lithotomy had been performed on young children, was because the bladder had not been reached. In children the perineum is deeper, in proportion, than in the adult. The material is loose, lax and loaded with fat. After making the incision, the point of the forefinger is placed on the staff and pushed gently towards the bladder; the finger gets deeper as regards the perineum, and deeper into the wound by pushing the prostate gland and neck of the bladder inward and upwards, but the finger not being between the urethra and staff, we get no nearer the bladder, and of course fail to find stone, although it had been previously detected by sounding. When we cut into the membranous portion of the urethra and neck of the bladder, the point of the finger should never be pushed onward unless it is between the staff and the wound.

The third case narrated by Dr. M., was a man aged thirty years, whom he had successfully treated by lithotomy; he had passed a large quantity of fragments and was now doing well. When a stone is crushed, continued Dr. March, the fragments or debris are generally left to chance, but Mr. Ferguson had hastened the cure by successfully extracting the fragments with a small lithotrite and scoop, so delicately made that a fragment of considerable size may remain betwixt the blades, and yet the united size of

the fragment and blades may readily be drawn along the urethra.

Dr. March also mentioned a sound with the shank, made several sizes smaller than the curved end, and he considered it an improvement on the instruments which fill up the urethra, from the fact that when it was introduced into the bladder it could be turned more readily in all directions.

Dr. AMOS FOWLER exhibited to the Society a wad of white and black hair, which had been vomited by a girl while suffering from an attack of hysterical fits.

On motion of Dr. B. P. STAATS, seconded by Dr. Alden March, Dr. DEVOL proceeded to read the paper of the evening, entitled "Homeopathy," of which the following is a brief digest:

Homeopathy originated with Hahnemann, and Hahnemann originated a medical theory comprising two ideas, both of which ideas were older than himself.

The first of this brace of staggering ideas was *similia similibus curantur*. This fundamental homeopathic dogma is absurdity itself in the highest degree, and a little irony may serve to illustrate its absurdity of "*like cures like.*" If a man is dying of hemorrhage, bleed him. If another have inflammation of the eyes caused by sand, put in more. If he has lost one eye, pluck out the other. These are homeopathic prescriptions. The other idea is this: The power of medicine is indefinitely increased by dilution and trituration. It is manifestly impossible that a single drop or grain of medicine was ever reduced to the thirtieth attenuation, for the simple reason, to wit, such preparations would be much larger than the solar system.

The most astounding discovery of all is, not dilution or trituration, but condensation. How to condense a mass of sugar or milk, larger than the solar system, into a handful of little sugar pills.

It is claimed for homeopathy that it is popular, and is even now widely disseminated. The following statistics

will show how truthful are such pretensions. In Europe there are about 42,000 physicians, of which about 200 are homeopathics, or about three in every two hundred. I never knew a consumer of infinitesimal doses who was not confessedly ignorant of homeopathy.

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Dr. Armsby, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Dr. Devol for his interesting paper.

On motion of Dr. Babcock, seconded by Dr. Freeman, the thanks of the Society were also tendered to Dr. March for the interesting cases and pathological specimens which he had presented to the Society at this meeting.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Chapin, that the Society adjourn for one month. Carried.

J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 23, 1865.

A regular monthly meeting was held Thursday, February 23d, at 8 o'clock P. M., in the Common Council chamber, City Hall.

Dr. Peter P. Staats, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Alexander, Babcock, Beckett, Boulware, Case, Chapin, Craig, J. F. Crounse, Devol, Lansing, Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Pomfret, Quackenbush, Rossman, Sabin, Staats, Townsend, Vanderpoel, Hun, Warren and Wilson.

There were also present:

Drs. Orr Craig, of U. S. A.; John Ferguson, of Delaware county, N. Y.; Gustavis A. Hanlerive, of Prussia; C. A. Robertson, of Albany; Gustavis Truskatis, of City Hospital.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Beckett reported the following case of "Impalement through the Vagina." The prominent facts attending this

case were as follows: A lady, forty-five years of age, and a mother, while attempting to draw water from a hogshead which had been sunk into the ground with the staves projecting above the surface, of uneven length, fell astride of the upper edge of this hogshead, and impaled herself upon one of the projecting staves, which was three inches wide and one inch in thickness. The stave entered the vagina, after inflicting a severe wound near the anterior commissure of the vulva; it passed up that canal three inches, and then through the left side of its walls, inflicting a lacerated wound in the adjoining soft parts about two inches in depth, causing fearful hemorrhage. The hemorrhage was controlled by the use of per sulphate of iron and a sponge, retained in place with compress and T baudage.

After the first few days the discharge became profuse and extremely offensive, which was counteracted by the free use of chloride of sodium in solution. Stimulants and opiates were administered in such quantities as the exigence of the case demanded; and five weeks after the injury was sustained, she had recovered sufficiently to walk and attend to business,

Dr. TOWNSEND reported two cases of "Albumen in the Urine, in Pneumonia;" one occurring in the City Hospital. He thought that a brief account of this case might, if in no other way, prove serviceable in directing the attention of the Society to the subject, for future investigation. The patient was twenty-four years of age, the mother of one child, which she was nursing when taken ill; had previously enjoyed good health; born of healthy parents, and had no taint of strumous or syphilitic diathesis.

The physical examination made it a simple and clear case of pneumonia. During the whole time of her illness the urine was systematically and carefully examined, and at each examination, albumen was deposited, the deposit being most dense when the lungs were at the extent of the hepatization, and disappeared gradually as the disease disappeared from the lungs.

The chloride of sodium was deposited at every examination of the urine; and he would here remark, that, as in this case, the chloride of sodium appeared and continued throughout the attack of pneumonia, in nearly all the cases that had come under his observation. An interesting fact connected with this case of pneumonia was, that, in about ten days, she had a relapse, when the albumen appeared and disappeared, as in the first attack; and when the patient recovered from the attack of pneumonia, the urine was free from albumen.

The second case was one where the inflammation was confined to the right lung. In this case the urine was examined only once when a decided deposit of albumen was thrown down. Grisolle, Solon, Absille and Rayer in their works on diseases of the kidneys, pleuro-pneumonia and capillary bronchitis, corroborate the fact of albumen being frequently found in the urine of patients ill with pneumonia. Dr. Absille states that in simple acute pneumonia the albumen appearing in the urine is always at the period of the resolution of the inflammation or decline of the disease.

Dr. Townsend continued: Albumen appearing in the urine in pneumonia is not a fact of dangerous import, because it quickly disappears and seems to accompany the decline of the malady. In reflecting upon the fact of albumen being occasionally found in the urine of patients suffering from pneumonia, we cannot as a conclusion deduce anything of particular value, not as much even as where we find it in urine in Bright's disease or desquamative nephritis. Still it may be considered a link in the chain of reasoning upon this malady, which, when placed along with the other links, will add materially to the completion of the whole.

Dr. Devol reported an "Obstetrical Case with Dropsy of the Amnion;" a lady 25 years of age, the mother of two children; her average weight was 95 lbs., and she had never weighed 100 lbs. At her third confinement the walls of the abdomen were enormously distended. The

membranes were punctured at the commencement of labor, and ten pounds of amniotic fluid were discharged in less than one minute; from this time uterine contractions became strong and regular. After a severe labor of eight hours, with the usual presentation, she was delivered of a male child (still born) weighing twelve and a half pounds. Within five minutes after the delivery of the child the placenta was removed, accompanied with the loss of ten pounds of blood, making the total loss 32½ pounds. (The amniotic fluid and blood was collected and weighed.) The patient was now ex-sanguineous, speechless and helpless. Ergot and stimulants were administered and a bandage firmly applied. The after-treatment consisted of brandy and beef tea, with perfect rest, and within three weeks after her confinement she walked the distance of one mile.

Dr. Devol also exhibited to the Society the tendon of the extensor communis digitorum muscle, which had been torn from the hand of a woman by being caught on a "door catch," while she was engaged in a drunken brawl and scuffle with one of her own sex. The tendon was nine inches long, and had been torn from its insertion into the base of the third phalanx of the middle finger, and from its attachment to the muscles above the annular ligament, carrying with it a portion of the muscle. The wound in the skin was less than one inch in length, through which this tendon was drawn. She recovered with a slight deformity to the finger.

Dr. SABIN reported a case of "Polypus Uteri." The patient, 25 years of age, the mother of two children, had ceased to menstruate for the last seven months previous to this illness; was suddenly taken ill as she thought with labor pains; before a physician arrived a polypus the size of a goose egg was expelled from the uterus, which was preceded and accompanied with considerable flowing. This polypus presented in appearance the cut surface of liver. On laying it open it was found to contain a cavity extend-

ing nearly the whole length, and large enough to admit the firnge; the walls were from a quarter to half of an inch in thickness; there seemed to be a stem or pedicle by which it might have been attached to the uterus. The patient soon recovered.

Dr. Sabin also reported "Two Cases of Hydatids" occurcuring in two women who supposed themselves *enciente*—one the mother of two, the other of five children. They were taken ill—the former in the fourth and the latter in the seventh month of their supposed pregnancy—their illness resembling labor pains, which were accompanied with profuse hemorrhage. During the pains large quantities of hydatids were expelled from the uterus. They were in clusters and the cells were filled with a clear fluid, and varying in size from a pea to a large walnut. After the expulsion of the hydatids the hemorrhage ceased, and the patients soon recovered.

Dr. Moore reported the following case: A healthy boy, two years of age, while eating an egg from which the shell had not been removed, caused severe paroxysms of coughing and strangulation. Pieces of the egg-shell were expelled from the larynx. The power of speech ceased from this time, the cough ceased, the respiration was labored, and the greatest difficulty attended expiration. The loss of speech and difficult respiration together, with an inflamed condition of the throat, continued for five days, when the symptoms became more favorable, respiration easier, appetite improved, and everything indicated a speedy recovery. This apparent improvement continued for the following nine days, when, suddenly, all of the former unpleasant symptoms returned with increased severity. The patient sank and died upon the sixteenth day after eating the egg, with symptoms resembling membraneous croup. Six hours after death the post-mortem examination revealed a large quantity of purulent matter in the larynx and trachea. Three pieces of egg-shell, measuring from one to three lines in diameter, were found

in the larynx; quite a depression from ulceration marked the location of each piece of shell.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Drs. Beckett, Townsend, Devol, Sabin and Moore for the interesting and instructive cases, and pathological specimens which they have presented to the Society this evening. Carried.

Dr. WARREN moved that the Society adjourn for one month. Carried.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *March* 30, 1865.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, Thursday, March 30th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. PETER P. STAATS, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BABCOCK, BAILEY, BECKER, BECKETT, BOULWARE, CASE, CHAPIN, DEVOL, FREEMAN, HUN, LANSING, LEWI, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, H. MCNAUGHTON, J. W. MOORE, LEVI MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, POMFRET, SABIN, SMITH, C. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND, VANDERPOEL.

There were also present several medical students.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and approved.

Dr. H. MARCH proposed for membership Dr. C. A. Robertson, of Albany.

On motion, Dr. Robertson's credentials were referred to the comitia minora.

Dr. LANSING moved, seconded by Dr. Henry March, that Dr. Robertson be invited to a seat, and to participate in the deliberations of the Society.

Dr. CHAPIN, chairman of the committee on Prize Essays, presented the following report:

The Committee on Prize Essays report that they have selected the following subject: "Dysentery, as presented in the country. Illustrated by cases."

In the history of the disease it would be desirable with its characteristics to include its locality, its etiology, the previous condition of the patient, the character of the excrementitious products, the pathological facts, and the sequelæ.

F. L. R. Chapin,
Thomas Hun,
S. O. Vanderpoel,
Committee.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey reported a case of "Œdema Glottidis," occurring in a large, stout, and plethoric man, induced by the patient sleeping in the open air at night while sailing on the river.

The symptoms at the onset of the disease were hoarseness, sore throat and slight bronchial irritation. In a few days the disease became well developed. The symptoms became more urgent, with violent and alarming paroxysms of dysphagia and dyspnœa. The case terminated favorably under the following treatment: In the beginning of the attack small doses of tartarized antimony were given, and the throat penciled with nit. argenti; sinapisms were applied to the chest and throat. After the disease became well established, and the symptoms alarming, a blister was then applied over the region of the glottis. Small doses of quinine with stimulus were administered. The tinct. of muriate of ferri was used as a gargle.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel gave a verbal report of a case of "Encephaloid Cancer," occurring in a man seventy-nine years of age, involving the whole system, numerous cancerous masses being deposited in every organ of the body. Dr. V. also exhibited to the Society a wet preparation of the cancerous mass, removed from the peritoneum of the patient.

Dr. Lewi reported two cases of "Myelitis;" both patients were men advanced in years; one was seventy-three years of age. There was a great similarity in their age, temperament, general health and habits of life, and both were under treatment at the same time; their symptoms being,

an anxious countenance; articulation difficult, occasionally incoherent; upper extremities numb and weak; dull pain along the vertebral column; there was a numbness and a feeling of coldness in the lower extremities, together with partial paralysis; the paralysis extending to the bladder. Both patients remain under treatment.

Dr. BABCOCK reported a case of "Typhoid Fever," of which the following are some of the important facts in the case: A young man, seventeen years of age, of temperate habit, and had previously enjoyed good health, was attacked with the usual symptoms of typhoid fever. During the period of four and a half days a profuse perspiration, diarrhœa and collapse occurred. This young man took three quarts of the best brandy in market. The vital powers were at so low an ebb, and so complete was the prostration, that but little or no hopes were entertained for his recovery; but the doctor persevered in the treatment, giving large quantities of stimulus, which did not appear to be any greater than the exigencies of the case warranted and demanded. Beginning with a small amount, it was gradually but steadily increased to one and a half ounces every hour, until the virulence of the disease had spent its force and reaction took place, when it was carefully withdrawn. Aside from the stimulus there was but little medication; convalesence continued without interruption, and the patient completely recovered.

Dr. FREEMAN reported the following case: A lady, twenty-five years of age, six months advanced in pregnancy, had previously enjoyed good health, was suffering from bilious derangement, indicated by yellowness of the skin and eyes, together with uneasiness and distress in the epigastric and right hypochondriac regions, supposed to be induced by the pressure of the gravid uterus, thereby interferring with the normal secretory functions of the liver. On the morning of the third day of her illness, she gave birth to twins after an easy labor of a few minutes' duration. She was now comfortable, remarkably calm and

cheerful, and continued so until the evening of the following day, when she suddenly became delirious, and gradually sank into a profound coma, and died on the sixth day of her illness, and on the third day after confinement. After death her skin became of a deep orange hue.

Dr. Alden March gave a verbal report of a case of "Necrosis of the inferior Maxilla," where the operation called for the removal of the entire lower jaw, and exhibited to the Society the morbid specimen which had been removed the day previous. The patient was a girl eighteen years of age; worked in a match factory. About fifteen months previous to the operation, she was seized with toothache, and had several teeth extracted. She continued to work in the factory until the jaw became involved. A spontaneous opening formed, through which large quantities of pus were discharged. The disease gradually increased, until several fistulous openings were established, communicating with the diseased bone. He considered this case one of interest, as corroborating the views heretofore entertained that the fumes of phosphorus will induce necrosis, especially when the fumes come into immediate diate contact with the periosteum or bone.

Dr. M. would suggest the inquiry as to whether the fumes of sulphur might not also occasion necrosis, and should observations establish the fact of necrosis from the fumes of sulphur, we could account more satisfactorily for the large number of cases of necrosis occurring in the army, where the soldiers are much exposed to the fumes of sulphur arising from burnt gunpowder.

Dr. March also exhibited a pathological specimen of a femur and tibia, showing where new bone was formed within the medullary membrane, and also under the periosteum, with the sequestrum between the two new formations of bony material.

Dr. Devol exhibited to the Society several interesting specimens of tape worms.

Dr. Levi Moore, the essayist of the evening, remarked

that the usual hour for adjournment had now arrived. He would, therefore, prefer to postpone the reading of his paper to some future meeting of the Society.

Dr. THOMAS HUN moved that the Society comply with the wishes of Dr. Moore, as just stated.

The motion was carried, and the Society adjourned for one month. J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *April* 5, 1865.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall, on Wednesday evening, April 5, 1865.

Dr. P. P. STAATS, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. O. C. ALEXANDER, WM. H. BAILEY, JOHN H. BECKER, U. G. BIGELOW, J. R. BOULWARE, J. P. BOYD, H. S. CASE, F. L. R. CHAPIN, WM. H. CRAIG, D. E. FONDA, AMOS FOWLER, S. H. FREEMAN, THOMAS HUN, JOSEPH LEWI, HENRY MARCH, H. G. MCNAUGHTON, PETER MCNAUGHTON, M. L. MEAD, J. W. MOORE, LEVI MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, J. J. MYERS, J. N. NORTHROP, J. E. POMFRET, J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH, J. B. ROSSMAN, CHAS. H. SMITH, C. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, R. A. SABIN, JOHN SWINBURNE, HOWARD TOWNSEND, S. O. VANDERPOEL, PETER VAN O'LINDA, ALFRED WANDS, L. G. WARREN, JNO. P. WHITBECK, ANDREW WILSON, STAATS WINNE.

There were also present:

Dr. Edward Duffey, of Albany; Hon. Chas. M. Crandall, M. D., of Allegany Co.; R. Jewett, M. D., of Harlem; Hon. J. T. Williams, M. D., of Chautauqua Co.

The President, after calling the meeting to order, said:

Gentlemen—We are again called together to mourn the death of another member of this Society, Dr. S. D. Willard, one who has devoted much time and manifested a great interest in the welfare of this Society.

I hope such arrangements will be made by the Society with respect to his memory as his merits deserve.

Dr. Bailey then addressed the meeting as follows:

Mr. President—The occasion of our meeting is one that may well fill our hearts with sorrow. We have come to offer a tribute of affection and respect, to one whose sudden decease makes his loss more keenly felt. I refer, as you well know, to our recent associate, Dr. Sylvester D. Willard.

It would be in vain for me to express adequately in a few words my estimate of the man and his character. Permit me, however, to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the death of Dr. Sylvester D. Willard has deprived this Society of one whose professional ability, whose regard for the welfare of his patients, whose skillful and persistent efforts in their behalf, were such as to secure for him their abiding gratitude, and the high confidence of his brethren in the profession.

Resolved, That his relations to his medical associates, by reason of his fine social qualities, his contagious cheerfulness, his manly, gentlemanly bearing, his deep interest in, and quick sympathy with all, have aided greatly to promote in them, not only a higher esteem for each other, but also a fuller estimate of the dignity of medical pursuits and their value to mankind.

Resolved, That his usefulness as a member and officer of the various Medical Societies, County, State and National, in promoting a love of scientific research and discussion, and in endeavoring, by address and through the press, to induce men to cherish the memory and properly prize the services of the qualified and faithful physician, and perhaps, greater than all, his humane efforts for the amelioration of the condition of the insane poor, have reflected true and lasting honor on the Profession of Medicine.

Resolved, That our regard for Dr. Willard as a physician and a man is more profound from the modest and unobtrusive, but firm and habitual manifestation of christian principles, which shaped his actions and determined the objects to the attainment of which he devoted his most earnest and highest experience.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to extend to his family the deep sympathy of this Society in their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That the Society will attend his funeral, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Dr. Quackenbush said:

Mr. President—I would do injustice to my feelings should

I permit this occasion to pass by without offering my tribute of respect to the memory of our deceased companion, Dr. S. D. Willard. Though never his intimate associate, I always regarded him with feelings of sincere friendship, and saw in his character those traits which we all admire, and which belong to the truly good man. His life among us, though comparatively short, has been one of great labor and usefulness. Coming from New England—that home of industry, he brought with him those habits which peculiarly fitted him for the occupations in which he engaged and the sphere in which he moved. Possessed, too, of high principles of honor and morality, which had been instilled into his mind in early youth, and which were the natural heirlooms of the family to which he belonged, he combined those elements whose union goes to constitute that character which, in every rank and condition of life, demands confidence and respect.

His zeal in his profession and its kindred associations was ever clearly manifest; and his devotion to his friends, and to those who required his services and sympathy, was as true as it was beautiful. Unostentatious in his manners; quiet in his demeanor; patient and untiring in his labors; and scrupulously regardful of all the rules of professional etiquette, he maintained a character which was well worthy of imitation. I do not now design to attempt an analysis of that character, for I fear I would be incapable of doing justice to it, and the occasion will not authorize any extended remarks—but I would simply state, that the good elements were so happily blended in him, that he was enabled to exert an influence which, though like the evening dew unseen, was very potent and felt through the entire ranks of the medical profession of this State.

As Secretary of the N. Y. State Medical Society, he was pre-eminently useful, and when the records of this Association are fully written out, no name will occupy a more enviable position than that of Sylvester D. Willard. In the capacity of Secretary, he acquired an extensive medical

acquaintance, and this acquaintanceship, in very many instances, ripened into warm friendship, and I know of no man in our profession who had more friends than he whose death we now deplore.

One of the last efforts of Dr. Willard was his study of the condition of the insane poor of this State, and to it he devoted his best energies, and the lengthy and interesting report which he made to the Legislature during its recent session, does honor to his head and to his heart. Henceforth, the condition of the life-weary and neglected maniac will be changed, and this amelioration in his condition will be the result of the care and thought and energy of him, who studied his wants and made his successful appeals to the proper authorities to have those wants supplied.

But his labors are now all completed, his toil is now ended, and his memory will live ever green in the hearts of those who were allied to him by the ties of kindred and affection, and ever bright in the regards of all who knew him.

The resolutions were adopted.

The Society then adjourned, to attend the funeral at Rev. Dr. Sprague's Church.

J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *April* 27, 1865.

A regular monthly meeting was held in the City Hall on Thursday, April 27th, 1865, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Peter P. Staats, President, in the chair.

The following members were present, viz.:

Drs. Alexander, Babcock, Boulware, Case, Chapin, J. F. Crounse, Devol, Fowler, Freeman, Lansing, Mead, J. S. Mosher, Myers, Pomfret, B. P. Staats, C. P. Staats, Townsend, Vanderpoel, Wilson.

There were also present:

Drs. R. H. Melius, C. A. Robertson, Edward R. Hun, of Albany.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. CHAPIN presented the following communication:

ALBANY, *April 9th*, 1865.

Dr. PETER P. STAATS, *President of the Albany Co. Med. Society:*

Dear Sir—Having accepted the position of surgeon of the 192d Regiment of the State, and expecting to leave for the "front" in a few days, I hereby offer my resignation as Treasurer of the Albany County Medical Society. Yours very truly,

H. R. HASKINS.

Dr. B. P. STAATS moved that the foregoing communication be received, and that Dr. Haskins' resignation be accepted. Carried.

Dr. B. P. STAATS moved, seconded by Dr. Pomfret, that Dr. Chapin act as Treasurer. Carried.

Dr. CHAPIN suggested that a committee be appointed to examine into the present condition of the treasury. Thereupon Dr. B. P. Staats moved that a committee be appointed to examine the Treasurer's account, as to the amount of money on hand and the amount due the Society. Carried.

The President appointed Drs. Townsend, Vanderpoel and B. P. Staats to act as such committee.

Dr. POMFRET read a paper entitled "Medical Statistics," being a report of the diseases, accidents, deaths and discharges from disability which occured in a regiment of 927 men, for a period of one year, viz., from August 20th, 1862, to August 20th, 1863, at Fort Reno, D. C.

The tables presented, showed the whole number of diseases which occurred during the year and during each month of the year for the whole regiment, and for each company, the deaths and discharges for disability, with the causes which produced them, for each company and each month, the comparative loss from sickness, death and discharge of each company, and also the sickness, death and disability of the regiment as compared with the regiment in the same brigade.

Dr. CHAPIN reported a case of "Pneumonia, with remarks

on Albumen and the Chlorides in this disease." The Doctor stated in his remarks that albuminous urine was found in the course of so many diseases, without being constant in them, that he was of the opinion that it was caused by some adventitious circumstance connected with the disease, and the cause was, some obstruction to the circulation affecting the kidneys. In proof of this view he referred to the obstruction to the circulation in the second stage of pneumonia, to the experiments on animals by obstructing the circulation which produced, or at least resulted in albuminous urine, and to most of the diseases in which albumen occurred temporarily in the urine, the obstruction to the circulation was temporary, at least so far as it affected the kidneys. Dr. C. also stated that the disappearance of the chlorides from the urine in pneumonia was so varied that we had not as yet deduced anything of practical value from the occasional absence of this salt from the urine.

Dr. B. P. Staats reported a case of "Empyemia" terminating favorably after the second operation of paracentetis thoracis had been performed. The patient was a young man aged 18 years, of scrofulous diathesis, spare built and with every symptom of immediate dissolution. The right side of the chest was much more prominent than the left. There was a small fluctuating tumor near the right nipple, which was punctured, and one pint of matter was drawn from the right pleural cavity. The patient was then put on a tonic course of treatment. Two weeks later it was again found to be necessary to puncture the chest the second time. The same pleural cavity was punctured and three quarts of matter were drawn off from the chest, after which the former plan of treatment was continued. The patient had recovered sufficiently to attend to usual business.

Dr. S. H. Freeman reported a case of "Cancer of the Stomach." The patient, a lawyer sixty years of age, of delicate physique, of sedentary habits. The patient said that he was confined to his house in consequence of exhaus-

tion, occasioned by excessive mental labor. He suffered no pain; his appetite and digestion, as the patient remarked, were excellent; his appearance indicated a jaundiced condition of the system. There were at first no marked symptoms of organic disease, except occasional ejections from the stomach; these increased in frequency and severity. The disease was diagnosed cancer of the stomach, and the autopsy revealed the fact two months from the time he was first confined to his house.

Dr. FOWLER reported the following case of "Albuminuria." The man was twenty-three years of age, of scrofulous diathesis and sanguine temperament, had complained of poor health for several years; a few years ago was attacked with the usual symptoms of acute albuminuria. The case was still in progress and appeared to be improving—was taking ammonia, citrate of iron and a milk diet.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL presented some remarks on "Jaundice," as occurring in pregnancy. The Doctor remarked, that the interest excited by the case of jaundice reported by Dr. Freeman, at the last meeting of the Society, had induced him to give the subject some study. The puerperal state is ever one of peculiar care and anxiety, both to friends and physician. It was well known that diseases which in the non-pregnant condition are almost innocuous, at such times become causes of serious care—the almost absolute benignity of jaundice in the non-pregnant state, and on the contrary its gravity with those *enciente*. To what is this condition due? Is it merely functional in character, dependent upon compression of the liver by the gravid uterus, or must we look for deeper seated causes arising from organic changes in the structure of the organ itself? Patients with this disease always die with the symptoms of blood poisoning, a condition which never arises in simple jaundice, nor can it be explained by mere compression; if so, the relief of the gravid uterus should remove the malady; unfortunately it has no influence. In every case which he had studied, the fatal symptoms did

not supervene until after delivery. In France, where they had given this disease considerable study, the physicians there had found the liver small, weighing about one and a half pounds, its color deep brown, its consistence rather augmented than diminished, its brown aspect uniform, and nowhere dotted with yellow spots. Incisions into the substance presented the same color as the external surface; the biliary vesicle was empty. Examined microscopically, the tissue presented no trace of hepatic cells. but an abundance of fat globules, mingled with biliary matter. Along with this abnormal condition of the liver, the spleen in most cases was found considerably enlarged and congested. The kidneys, in every instance, were seriously affected, resembling, in many features, those of albuminuria, as there is an entire suppression of urine while it is found freely in the blood. To this fact may the coma and cerebral symptoms always present be attributed, rather than to any agency arising from the liver, for it is well known the bile or any of its elements may circulate indefinitely and prove innocuous. It was this peculiarity which aroused his attention when listening to the case of Dr. Freeman's, and a desire to know what might be the blood poison which induced such sudden and fatal results.

Dr. V. continued, that while the disease is one of rare occurrence, it is still one of peculiar interest, and which is eliciting the most careful scrutiny by some of the best pathologists of France and Germany.

Dr. J. R. Boulware reported two cases of "Cerebro-spinal Meningitis," or the so-called "Spotted Fever," with the post-mortem appearances.

Case I.—A boy, fifteen years of age, had no taint of a strumous diathesis. Always, previous to his death, enjoyed perfect health. On the morning of the 4th of April was taken ill with headache, and a slight chill; on the following evening returned to rest and appeared tolerably comfortable until about 12 o'clock, when he awoke, complaining bitterly of his head; vomited freely, was very restless,

talking at random, turning abruptly from one side of the bed to the other, throwing off the bed-clothes, mind wandering, yet would answer questions intelligently, when once the mind was fixed; these symptoms continued with little interruption until about 9 A. M., when he became more quiet, and symptoms seemed less urgent. When he sat awhile in his chair and partook of a little nourishment, the symptoms appeared more favorable. At 3 P. M. he was found in a state of collapse, breathing hurriedly, with a gurgling noise in the larynx; head slightly bent backward; on his feet and legs were numerous purplish spots resembling bruises, varying in size from one line to two inches in diameter, oval in shape, were not elevated, nor did they change their color under pressure. Death took place without any spasmodic phenomena, at 4 P. M., about thirty-nine hours after the attack.

Post-mortem—Forty-six hours after death.

External appearances—Countenance turgid; body finely formed; little or no emaciation; rigor mortis, moderately marked.

Head—On removing the skull the venous system was found to be turgid with blood. When the dura-mater was removed, a strip of lymph of a yellowish white color was seen on the lateral and upper sulci of the brain. There was about one drachm of thick yellowish lymph between the floor of the third ventricle and pituitary body encircling the tuber cinereum. There was some turbid serum in the third ventricle and in the posterior sub arachnoidean space. The arachnoid and pia mater, at the base of the brain, were thickened and altered in appearance. This exudation of yellowish lymph was between the arachnoid and pia mater, and extended from the pituitary body along the base of the pons varolii and cerebellum, covering the under surface of the medulla oblongata. The brain substance was firm and healthy.

Thorax—The left lung was congested; the tissue was healthy; the heart was partly filled with fluid blood.

The blood in the large vessels was of a dark color and fluid. The kidneys were congested. The remaining thoracic and abdominal viscera were healthy.

Case II—A boy, fourteen years of age, free from any strumous tint; had previously enjoyed good health. The symptoms were the same as in the preceding case, with the following exceptions: The disease was only of twenty-four hours duration; the pain in the head and neck was more intense; the head more inclined backward. About the twentieth day of the attack the left arm became paralyzed, together with a partial paralysis of the left leg. There was no eruption or discoloration of the skin.

Post-mortem—Thirty-three hours after death. Body very much emaciated. Other conditions were very similar to those in the first case, with the exception that the pathological lesion of the brain was more extensive and decided.

Treatment—Consisted principally of cold applications to the head; mustard paste to the surface, over the stomach, and also to the back of the neck; quinine and opium internally, and a nourishing diet.

Dr. P. P. Staats gave a verbal report of a case of "Cerebro-spinal Meningitis."

Dr. J. V. Lansing also gave a verbal report of a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis, terminating fatally within twenty-four hours after the attack. The patient was a boy six years of age.

Dr. Freeman moved, seconded by Dr. Babcock, that the Society adjourn to meet again next month, for the purpose of a discussion relative to the present epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Carried.

J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 13, 1865.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, June 13th, 1865, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. P. P. STAATS, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BABCOCK, BAILEY, BOULWARE, CARTER, J. H. CASE, CHAPIN, CRAIG, DEVOL, FREEMAN, HUN, LANSING, H. MARCH, MEAD, NORTHROP, PARMELE, POMFRET, ROSSMAN, SABIN, SHILAND, SIGSBEE, C. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, WARREN, WILSON, WRIGHT.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. LANSING, from the *comitia minora* (the chairman being absent), presented the following report:

The Committee having examined the credentials of the following named gentlemen, who were proposed for membership, report favorably to their admission: G. Hawley Armsby, Porter L. F. Reynolds, Charles A. Robertson, William Sigsbee, E. Mulford Wade.

Dr. BABCOCK moved that they be admitted as members of the Society on complying with the by-laws and paying their initiation fees. Carried.

They all complied with the above motion and paid their initiation fees.

The following gentleman was proposed for membership:

By Dr. P. P. Staats: Dr. Myron Knowlton, Albany.

Dr. WARREN moved, seconded by Dr. Babcock, that Dr. Knowlton's credentials take the usual course. Carried.

The Vice-President being absent, the usual semi-annual address was not delivered.

The President announced the following committees, under the resolution presented by Dr O. S. Vanderpoel at the last annual meeting:

Cases of Poisoning—Drs. Chas. H. Porter, J. S. Mosher and Levi Moore.

Comparative Value of various Anæsthetic Agents and Mode of Death from their use—Drs. J. S. Mosher, Charles Devol and F. B. Parmele.

Cutaneous Diseases—Drs. Howard Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel and Levi Moore.

Diseases of the Eye and Ear—Drs. Chas. A. Robertson, J. L. Babcock and R. H. Sabin.

Diseases of Women and Children—Drs. J. P. Boyd, J. V. P. Quackenbush and J. V. Lansing.

Management of the Albany County Asylum for the Insane—Drs. Thomas Hun, H. Townsend and J. R. Boulware.

Medical Journalism—Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, J. V. Lansing and H. O. Young.

Medico-legal Testimony—Drs. B. B. Fredenburgh, W. H. Craig and Wm. F. Carter.

New Therapeutic Agents—Drs. Howard Townsend, W. H. Bailey and Joseph Lewi.

Pathology—Drs. James H. Armsby and J. R. Boulware.

Public Hygiene—Drs. B. P. Staats, P. Van Olinda and Peter McNaughton.

Surgery—Drs. Alden March, J. H. Armsby and L. G. Warren.

Testimony at Coroners' Inquests—Drs. S. H. Freeman, J. P. Whitbeck and Staats Winne.

To Secure Mortuary Statistics in the City of Albany—Drs. U. G. Bigelow, W. H. Bailey and F. L. R. Chapin.

Valuable Accessions to the Materia Medica originating with the Hahnemanic Practitioners—Drs. J. E. Pomfret, C. D. Mosher and M. L. Mead.

Dr. Lansing had placed under the microscope, and exhibited to the Society, a few of the muscular fibres from a piece of ham, in which was plainly to be seen a specimen of trichina spiralis.

Dr. L. also read a paper, giving an account of a family, consisting of the parents and their four children, who ate of this ham raw, and on the following day the three

younger children were taken sick, and on the second day the older child and parents were taken ill. The cases were still in progress, with no symptoms constant in them all, except a peculiar sallow color of the skin.

The treatment indicated in trichina poisoning, before the worm becomes developed in the stomach, and makes its way out of the canal into the muscular tissues, would be the administration of active cathartics. But after its lodgment in the muscles, nothing can be safely done for its destruction or removal by the way of medical agents. Dr. L. would suggest that, in view of the frequent practice of soldiers eating uncooked ham and pork in the hurry of marching, that it is not at all improbable that many cases treated by our army surgeons during the last four years as cases of typhoid fever, muscular rheumatism, gastric irritation, or general atrophy, have been cases of trichina poisoning.

Dr. DEVOL read a paper on "Entozoa," (intestinal parasites). He quoted their classification according to several naturalists and helminthologists; treated of their genera and species, their origin and history; traced their ova to the different animals in which they become encysted and developed.

The Doctor gave more special attention to the tape worm and its species; stated that they were propagated by their ova in swine flesh (measly pork), and in other animals, and when these ova are taken accidentally into the human stomach, form a firm attachment, by means of hooks, to some portion of the mucus membrane of the alimentary canal, where they were finally developed, and distinguished when matured, by head, neck, and colony of joints.

The Doctor also exhibited several specimens of tape worm to the Society, and stated what were the symptoms and treatment of this parasite.

Dr. J. L. BABCOCK reported a case of "Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis." The case, a girl 14 years, and delicate frame, who was seized with severe pain in the head and

neck, extending down the back, with chills and vomiting; pulse 120; some rigidity of the limbs; slight delirium. These symptoms became augmented. Livid spots appeared upon the body, respiration became laborious, opisthotonus, countenance, purple; stupor more profound, and died in a comatose state four days after the attack.

Post-mortem nine hours after death. Vessels of the dura-mater were full, deposits of lymph in small patches over the surface of the brain; thick mass of fibro-albuminous matter deposited along the base of the brain. This deposit was more abundant about the pituitary body. The lateral ventricles and sub-arachnoidean spaces were filled with a sero-purulent fluid, of a milky appearance. A pool of this fluid filled the foramen magnum. The pia mater was congested, thickened and opaque in patches. The membranes of the spinal cord were congested, and bore marks of inflammation. The sub-arachnoidean spaces of the cord were filled with fluid identical with that already described as found in the same parts of the brain.

Dr. Boulware presented a written report of a case of "Spotted Fever, or Cerebro-spinal Meningitis," by Dr. John F. Crounse. The symptoms in this case were langour, restlessness, severe pain in the head, extending down the neck, pulse slightly accelerated, tongue moist and white, dark, livid spots on the lower extremities. Calomel was given in the beginning of the attack, until slight ptyalism was induced, and was then put upon a supporting plan of treatment. The patient recovered.

Dr. W. H. Bailey offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be and are hereby tendered to Drs. Lansing, Devol, Babcock, and Crounse, for the interesting and instructive cases which they have presented to the Society at this meeting.

Adopted.

Drs. Carter, Sabin, Mead and Boulware gave verbal reports of several cases of Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. The epidemic as it prevailed in this country was then ably discussed, nearly all the members present par-

ticipating in the discussion; after which, on motion of Dr. BABCOCK, the Society adjourned.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 20, 1865.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall on Tuesday, June 20th, 1865.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. R. BOULWARE, J. V. LANSING, J. S. MOSHER, P. P. STAATS.

The President, Dr. PETER P. STAATS, after calling the meeting to order, stated that the Society had been called together for the purpose of making suitable arrangements to attend the funeral of one of its late members, Dr. J. H. Case.

On motion of Dr. LANSING, the President appointed the following Committee on Resolutions:

Drs. Lansing, Mosher and Boulware.

Dr. LANSING, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported the following:

Whereas, Intelligence of the death of Dr. J. H. Case has been communicated to the Society, it is hereby

Resolved, That this Society receives such intelligence with sincere regret, and as a tribute of respect to the memory of one who for a long period has been associated with it as a member, it will attend his funeral in a body.

The resolution was adopted.

The Society then adjourned, to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 85 Lydius street.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *September* 9, 1865.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the City Hall on Saturday, September 9th, 1865.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. H. Armsby, J. L. Babcock, J. R. Boulware, J. P. Boyd, H. S. Case, F. L. R. Chapin, D. E. Fonda, Amos Fowler, S. H. Freeman, J. V. Lansing, Joseph Lewi, Alden March, Henry March, Henry McNaughton, James McNaughton, Peter McNaughton, M. L. Mead, Levi Moore, J. S. Mosher, J. J. Myers, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. B. Rossman, B. P. Staats, C. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Howard Townsend, S. O. Vanderpoel, Peter Van Olinda, L. G. Warren, S. P. Wright.

The object of the meeting was stated by the President, Dr. Peter P. Staats, as follows:

Gentlemen of the Society—I have called you together to make suitable arrangements to honor the memory of Dr. William Bay, deceased. The oldest and one of the most worthy members, Dr. Bay has been a member of this Society over fifty-eight years, and a member of the profession, in high standing, sixty-eight years. He was well known by the oldest members of this Society, and his courteous and gentlemanly conduct toward his professional brethren, and his worth as a physician, entitle him to our highest respect, and I hope such demonstrations will be made by this Society to his memory, as the occasion demands.

Dr. James McNaughton then rose and stated, that he had been long and intimately acquainted with Dr. Bay, and fully concurred with the President in all he had said of the merits of our deceased associate. He made further remarks substantially as follows:

Dr. William Bay was born in Albany, October 14th, 1773, where he passed his boyhood. His father then

removed to Claverack, Columbia county. At a proper age he was sent to Princeton College, where he remained until his senior year, when ill health compelled him to suspend his studies. Subsequently he studied medicine in New York, with Dr. Wm. T. Smith, and with the celebrated Professor William L. Mitchell. In May, 1797, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, at the Medical School of Columbia College. His Thesis, on that occasion, was on dysentry, and was so highly appreciated by the Professors, that it was published by the eminent publishers and booksellers, T. & J. Swords, of New York. It made a pamphlet of 109 pages, and was very favorably reviewed in the first volume of the New York Medical Repository. The reviewer remarked, "that this early fruit of his studies, worthy a more advanced age and mature experience, leaves us no room to doubt that his future professional career will be alike honorable to himself, and useful to his country." These expectations were not disappointed; his career *was* honorable to himself, and useful to his country.

The first field of his practice was at Claverack, where he acquired a high standing as a physician and surgeon. In 1810 he entered into partnership with Dr. Wm. McClellan, of Albany, who died not long afterward, leaving to him an opening to an extensive practice. In 1817, I came to this city and found Dr. Bay one of the leading physicians, then numbering only about a dozen. For more than forty years I had frequent occasion to meet him in consultation, until he was on the boundary of eighty. I always found him frank, fair and courteous. So highly esteemed was he among his professional brethren, that at the completion of the fiftieth year of his practice, he was tendered a public dinner by them. The invitation was gratefully accepted, and the banquet took place at Congress Hall, in April, 1847, and was one of the most agreeable and harmonious meetings of my whole professional life—an occasion alike honorable to the entertainers, and to their "venerable guest."

At the close of these remarks, the following preamble and resolutions were offered by Dr. McNaughton:

Whereas, it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of events, to remove by death our associate and friend, Dr. William Bay, the oldest, and one of the most esteemed members of this Society; and

Whereas, it is customary, and in this place eminently proper, that due respect should be paid to the memory of a deceased member; therefore,

Resolved, That the Albany County Medical Society has learned with regret that Dr. William Bay has been removed from the field of his usefulness in this world, by death.

Resolved, That all the members of this Society, whose privilege it was to be on terms of intimacy with the deceased, will long cherish his memory, and regret that they shall see his cheerful face no more.

Resolved, That we tender to the relatives of the deceased our condolence, and our sympathy with them in their sorrow.

Resolved, That this Society attend the funeral in a body and wear the usual badge of mourning on the occasion.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted by the Secretary to the family of the deceased, entered on the minutes of the Society, and published in the city papers.

Dr. B. P. Staats rose and said:

Mr. President—I heartily concur in the remarks and resolutions offered by my venerable friend, Dr. McNaughton; at the same time, I do not think we ought to mourn at this dispensation of Divine Providence, because, he has lived more than a score of years beyond the time allotted to mam to live on this earth, and life, at such an age, is but a burthen, and he has gone to that bourne from whence no traveler returns, to meet those he loved and honored on earth, and to receive the happy plaudit, "well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Neither will I attempt to deliver a eulogy on his character, for that would be a work of supererogation, for his eulogy is already written, by his own acts of kindness and mercy, on the hearts of thousands who were its recipients. But I will attempt to render a personal tribute to his memory for the many good counsels and kind acts I received from him when young and inexperienced. I commenced the practice of medicine in Rensselaer county, in 1817, and removed to this city in 1820. In 1821, I was

appointed county physician, and in 1822, one of the two city physicians. This placed in my care the sick of the jail, about half of the sick at the alms-house, and one-half of the paupers of the city. For a young and inexperienced practitioner, this was a responsible undertaking, and I was fully aware that there was safety in counsel. I had formed an acquaintance with Dr. Bay, and my calls on him were not a few; and whether my patients were rich or poor, bond or free, he never refused, and at all times cheerfully rendered me all the assistance required, without fee or reward; and during a residence of forty-five years in this city, I have never heard a word of reproach against him, but on the contrary, have heard hundreds bless him for his kindness and good treatment toward them. May we all live as he has lived, and die as he died.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL spoke as follows:

Mr. President—Dr. Bay died in the ripeness of years—a lifetime passed in the active duties of his profession—a name and reputation respected and honored—a long career exemplifying the graces of the Christian character.

Such is a brief and simple summing of his life—a noble record, well worthy of imitation. The feelings, however, of grateful remembrance for encouragement extended in our early beginning, for advice frequently rendered, and for the more intimate relations of later years, when in the circle of his family, his genial humor and warm heart were conspicuous, prompt us to a fuller delineation.

From Dr. Willard's Annals, we take the following facts relative to his active life. He was born and passed his boyhood in this city. His father removing to Claverack, Columbia county, led him to settle there for a season, after his admission to his profession. He removed to this city in 1810, and from that time until after the completion of his eightieth year, was in unremitting practice. There are several among us, who, during much of this time, were his compeers and associates, and who can testify to the assiduity and faithfulness with which he filled his trust. He has

told me, that during the sixty years of active duties and cares, he had never declined a sick call, no matter what station in life, or at what hour of the day or night. Very few, we think, can make a similar declaration. He contended that a moral obligation rested upon the physician; that his calling should not be regarded a mere business pursuit, but that he was called upon, so far as human effort would permit, to alleviate sickness and physical suffering.

Dr. Bay had, however, begun to withdraw from the more active duties of his profession when my intimacy with him commenced. The picture which gathers around the mind's eye, as I saw him again and again in the enjoyment of loved domestic relations—with his venerable partner spared to him, and his every wish anticipated by the promptings of devoted filial affection, will long remain vivid and beautiful. I felt that even here, he was reaping the satisfaction of a well-ordered life, and that a quiet halo brightened and encircled his declining years. He suffered few of the infirmities of age, until within a few days previous to his death, his mind retaining much of its clearness and activity, while his body was singularly exempt from the aches and pains of the aged; his sleep was always long and refreshing, his appetite uniform and unimpaired.

He exhibited the greatest interest in the events of the long and trying struggle through which the country has passed, and he lived to witness the hope expressed of him by Dr. Willard, "to know his country's once more peaceful and united prosperity."

Were I privileged to narrate the more intimate relations of the domestic circle, it would only be to illustrate more fully the cheerful and loving traits of his character, the happiness of a well spent life, and the bright hopes of the Christian's future. In these points he stands before us an example to imitate, and I can ask for each one of us, no higher earthly wish, than that our declining years may be as peaceful and happy.

The resolutions were adopted, and the Society adjourned

to meet at the Session room of Rev. Dr. Clark's Church, preparatory to attending the funeral.

J. R. BOULWARE, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 14, 1865.

The annual meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, November 14th, 1865, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. PETER P. STAATS, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, BAILEY, BECKER. BECKETT, BIGELOW, BOULWARE, BURT, CARTER, J. H. CASE, CHAPIN, CRAIG, J. F. CROUNSE, DEVOL, EDMESTON, FOWLER, FREEMAN, HUN, JOHNSON, LANSING, LEWI, H. MARCH, J. MCNAUGHTON, P. MCNAUGHTON, MCMURDY, MEAD, J. W. MOORE, LEVI MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, MYERS, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, PARMELE, POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, REYNOLDS, ROBERTSON, ROSSMAN, SABIN, SMITH, C. P. STAATS, SIGSBEE, TOWNSEND, VAN OLINDA, WANDS, WARREN, WILSON and YOUNG.

Also, Dr. H. W. Steenburgh, of Green Island, and gentlemen of the class of the Albany Medical College.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer presented the following annual report:

ALBANY, *November* 14, 1865.

To the President and Members of the Albany County Medical Society:

The Treasurer would respectfully submit the following annual report:

1865.

April 7.	Received from Dr. R. H. Haskins, former Treasurer..	$151 55
	Received by annual dues, initiating fees, premium on bond	48 35
	Total receipts.....	$199 90
	Total disbursements.....	186 97
Nov. 14.	Amount remaining in the treasury	$12 93

F. L. R. CHAPIN, *Treasurer.*

The report was accepted.

The President called for the report of the Librarian, when it was announced that the Library had been donated to the Albany Medical College, and, consequently, the Society had neither library nor librarian.

Dr. Lansing, from the *comitia minora*, in the absence of the chairman, presented the following report: The committee having examined the credentials of Dr. Myron Knowlton, of Albany, who was proposed for membership at the last semi-annual meeting, and report favorably to his admission.

On motion, Dr. Knowlton was elected a member of the Society, on complying with the by-laws and paying his initiation fee.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. W. F. Carter: Dr. Warren Van Steenburg, of Cohoes.

By Dr. M. L. Mead: Dr. George T. Stevens, of Albany.

By Dr. Joseph Lewi: Dr. Herman Bendell, of Albany.

By Dr. J. E. Pomfret: Dr. Charles C. Allen, of Greenbush.

The President then proceeded to deliver the annual address, which was listened to with much interest.

The subject selected was, "The Aid which Medical and Surgical Science offers to the Recuperative Powers of Nature." The surgical portion of the address was illustrated with a splint, invented by Prof. Nathan Smith, of Yale College, for the treatment of fractures of the femur, and which had undergone some alterations and improvements. He had succeeded better with this splint, as now improved by him, than with the more complex arrangements which are commonly used. He suggested that particular attention should be paid to the temperament of the patient, both in the practice of surgery and medicine. Illustrations in the practice of medicine were drawn from his long experience in the healing art. The address closed

with an appropriate and feeling tribute to the memory of those five members who have "died in the work" since the last annual meeting.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the President for his able and interesting address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy to the Delegate of this Society, to be presented to the State Medical Society.

On the motion of Dr. BAILEY, the resolution was adopted.

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY introduced Dr. Louis Bauer, of Brooklyn, to the Society, and moved, seconded by Dr. Quackenbush, that he be invited to a seat, and to participate in the deliberations of the Society. Carried.

Dr. BAUR, in a few remarks, acknowledged the honor conferred, and accepted the invitation.

Dr. MEAD offered the following:

Resolved, That the members of this Society who have been in the service in the U. S. A., be excused from paying their dues, which have accrued during their absence in the service.

Adopted.

Dr. NORTHROP moved, seconded by Dr. H. March, that the Society pay the expense of printing the "new diplomas" on parchment, from the newly engraved copper plate. Carried.

The President announced that Dr. Bauer would deliver a lecture that evening, at 7½ o'clock, at the Albany Medical College. Subject: "The Diseases of the Joints, and the Improvements adapted to their Treatment." He took pleasure in inviting members of this Society to attend.

The invitation was accepted.

The election of officers being next in order, the President appointed Drs. Quackenbush and Lansing tellers.

Upon balloting, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected:

Dr. Levi Moore, of Albany, *President.*

Dr. R. H. Sabin, of West Troy, *Vice-President.*

Dr. M. L. Mead, of Albany, *Secretary.*

Dr. F. L. R. Chapin, of Albany, *Treasurer.*

Dr. J. R. Boulware, of Albany, *Delegate to the State Medical Society*, for the four ensuing years.

No further business appearing, the Society adjourned.

J. R. Boulware, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *December*, 14, 1865.

A regular monthly meeting was held in the Common Council chamber, Thursday, December 14th, 1865, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Levi Moore, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Bailey, Boulware, J. H. Case, Chapin, Edmeston, Hun, Lansing, H. March, Mead, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Pomfret, Robertson, Townsend, Vanderpoel.

Dr. Geo. T. Stevens, of Albany, was also present.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Dr. C. A. Robertson read a report of several cases of diseases of the ear.

Case I.—A. S. F., 19 years of age. Deafness, occasional giddiness, and otorrhœa of six years standing, the sequel of scarlatina. The discharge was muco-purulent and fetid. An examination disclosed globular, cellular polypus. Treatment: Warm water injections, also injections of sulphate zinc, gr. iii to an ounce of rose water. A solution of arginti nitratis, gr. xx to an ounce of water, applied directly to polypus. In three days the polypus came away, otorrhœa ceased, and the hearing distance increased from a quarter to two inches.

Case II.—Child four years old; otorrhœa following rubeola. Treatment: maintained cleanliness by warm water injections, and used alternately injections of chloride of

zinc, gr. ii to the ounce, and tannic acid, gr. v to the ounce of water. The patient came twice, and all of the discharge had ceased.

CASE III.—A stout Irish girl, 20 years old, of scrofulous diathesis, had had constant and severe pain for six weeks; giddiness and occasional delirium attended, with general febrile symptoms. The walls of the meatus of the left ear were so swollen as to obliterate the canal. There was considerable swelling and tenderness of the head around the ear, and enlarged glands below and behind. A whitish discharge was oozing from the ear. Treatment: The walls of the canal were freely incised with a bistuory, a poultice applied, and a cathartic administered. The next day the pain was relieved. Careful injections of warm water continued a week; removed a small white polypus from the posterior wall with Wilde's aural snare. The thickened membrane treated with gr. xx sol. of nit. silver, allowing no accumulation of the secretion. The pain was diminished. After four weeks treatment the watch could be heard at six inches. The constitutional treatment consisted of tonics and supporting diet.

CASE IV.—A laboring man had an oats grain in his ear. Improper attempts to remove it had caused pain and hemorrhage. The kernel was found embedded in coagulated blood, which a stream of warm water brought away. The membrana tympani was then seen to be lacerated.

CASE V.—H. R., aged 16 years, had scarlatina when an infant; otorrhœa following, and being neglected, had resulted in almost absolute deafness; the membrana tympani of one ear being much thickened, that of the others destroyed; the Eustachian tubes were impervious. Local treatment, as described above, with blisters behind the ear and iodide of potassa thrice daily. He was relieved of the roaring, but little benefited in hearing. An artificial membrana tympani proved of little use. Puncturing the thickened membrane might have been beneficial, but the patient ceased his visits.

Case VI.—A case of deafness occasioned by hardened and accumulated cerumen. A patient use of the syringe and a thin spatula removed the mass, and the hearing was at once restored in the right ear. The left ear, which was considered well, had some accumulation of cerumen, which being removed, improved the hearing in this ear.

Case VII.—A lady 37 years old, of delicate organization; her nervous system of "exceedingly exalted susceptibility;" had noise in both ears like hissing of steam; hearing distance by the watch, with one ear in contact with the other, one inch. She had been troubled thirteen years. The examination discovered no local cause for the deafness, and it was diagnosed as a case of purely nervous deafness. These cases are much more rare than they are supposed to be.

Case VIII.—Was one of destruction of the membrana tympani by otorrhœa, consequent upon scarlatina; hearing distance five inches in the right and two inches in the left. After treating with injections of warm water, artificial membranes were introduced, which enabled her to hear the watch three feet with one and fourteen inches with the other. The membranes first used were made of cotton, wet with oil and pressed thin; aftewards Toynbee's membranes of vulcanized rubber were used.

Dr. J. E. Pomfret reported several cases of gunshot wounds through the legs. Dr. P. remarked that while in charge of a ward in the first military hospital established in this city, he had became impressed with the belief that a great many patients suffering from gunshot wounds through the legs die, who might have recovered if they had been kept quiet. This conviction was confirmed by observations in the hospitals in Washington.

Careful examinations show that the lungs do not collapse even after two punctures of the parietes of the thorax. The general principles of treatment which have been found most successful in our army, are to secure quiet by rest and morphine, and to sustain the system with beef tea.

Notwithstanding the precepts of the text books to the contrary, our surgeons have found that there is no need of depletion, antimony and other sedatives calculated to prevent inflammation.

Dr. P. then read a report of the cases of gunshot wounds through the lungs under his care, from the 10th of July, 1864, to the 7th of February, 1865. These included a great variety of wounds through the lungs. In one case the ball was lodged in the substance of the lung. In all these cases the principles of treatment described above were followed as far as circumstances would allow. All but one recovered, and many in a short time.

Dr. F. L. R. CHAPIN, being about to leave town, offered his resignation as Treasurer of the Society. It was accepted.

On motion of Dr. VANDERPOEL, the Society adjourned.

MARTIN L. MEAD, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *January* 11, 1866.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, at 8 P. M., January 11, 1866.

Dr. LEVI MOORE, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. BURT, CRAIG, EDMESTON, MEAD, L. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, SABIN, P. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND and VANDERPOEL.

Also, Dr. Stevens, of Albany.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. SABIN moved that Dr. Geo. T. Stevens be invited to take part in the deliberations of the Society. Carried.

Dr. MEAD reported a case of "Hemiplegia" following diphtheria, in which the symptoms differed from the paralysis that more commonly follows diphtheria, having the signs of an apoplectic origin.

Dr. VANDERPOEL remarked that diphtheria being essen-

tially a blood disease, he thought paralysis was caused by the poison conveyed in the circulation, the effect of which was a loss of nervous power, but the case presented had unusual features.

A discussion followed on paralysis, in which Drs. Sabin, Townsend, Staats and Edmeston took part, giving verbal reports of various cases which had come under their notice.

Dr. Townsend mentioned a case of a girl in the hospital under the care of Dr. March, who, five years ago, fell and fractured the skull in the occipital region. She was comatose for hours afterwards. Clonic spasms have occurred at intervals ever since. She has frequent spasmodic contractions of the flexor muscles of the forearm and leg. The intellectual faculties also were disturbed, so that she failed to connect words and ideas. The injury was in the cerebellum, and this failure to control the expression of her ideas bears an interesting analogy to the loss of power of co-ordination of muscular movements which is now admitted by physiologists to result from injury to this part of the brain.

Dr. Stevens then read a paper on "Excisions in cases of Gunshot Wounds." Early in the late war there was a rage for these operations. Some surgeons of the army, and some sent to the field for temporary service, performed the operation with but little regard to the nature of the case. But patients sent to the hospitals with excisions of both radius and ulna, or both tibia and fibula, or parts of the shaft of the femur, died rapidly or suffered secondary amputation higher than would have been necessary if it had been done primarily. This experience produced a reaction, and some medical directors forbade the operation.

The only text for the value of the operation must be the result of cases well selected, and those in which the operation is well performed. The history of all cases in which these conditions are not complied with, have no bearing whatever upon the subject. It is mainly such reports and

usually by other than army surgeons, that brought the operation into disrepute.

The writer's own experience has been decidedly favorable to the operation, believing that the risk of life is no greater than in amputation, the process of recovery as more tedious, and the resulting member not an encumbrance, but, on the contrary, a very useful limb, one must decide in favor of the operation of excision. Of the upper extremities, the excision of the head of the humerus stands first in importance, and in the success attending it.

The history of the cases hereinafter given, as well as abundant testimony of army surgeons, shows the following objections to the operation are not valid, viz.: 1. That fatal results occur more frequently than after amputation, or when left to itself. 2. That the fragments will come away of themselves, and a better joint preserved; or, 3d, That the limb is "an encumbrance," and useless.

The method of operating by the straight incision from the acromion process down, is preferable to the crescentic or V shaped incision. It makes a smaller wound, and preserves the deltoid muscle, which supports the limb from sagging as no appliance can. From aside the long head of the biceps, sever the rotator muscles, divide the capsule, press the arm upward from the elbow so as to raise the head, and then remove the injured parts with the saw. One or two sutures, and a few adhesive straps complete the operation. Flex the elbow, secure the arm to the side by a bandage, and raise it so as to bring the extremity of the humerus well up into the glenoid cavity. The following cases illustrate the value of this operation.

CASE I.—Wounded the 5th of May, 1863, by a conical rifle ball in the shoulder. The head of the bone was removed, making a straight incision and sawing off 2½ inches of the bone. Before winter he was discharged from the service, and had recovered so far as to be able to go to work at his trade as a floomer. He is a hammersman, and

has to handle large lumps of iron weighing from 300 to 400 lbs.

Case II, is of a man wounded at Coal Harbor, on the 10th of June, 1864, by a ball crushing the head of the humerus from the great tuberosity upward, passing through the glenoid cavity, along the spine of the scapula, passed out at its posterior border. Removed head of humerus and the upper two-thirds of the scapula, with a gouge. Two months after he was walking the streets of Washington, and on the 2nd of December he writes: "My arm looks as well as the other. I can get my hand to my head and straight down to my side." This is not a useless limb, and certainly no amputation at the joint could have healed so well in six months.

Case III.—On the 12th of July, 1864, the head and considerable extent of the shaft was shattered. Four inches of the bone was removed. In six months he recovered, with a useful arm.

Case IV.—August 21st, 1864. A ball passing from the acromion process to the spine of the scapula, and carried away one-half of the head of the humerus. Removed the shattered portion with a gouge, and closed the wound. Healed without anchylosis.

Excision of the elbow, though sometimes allowable in civil practice, is seldom advisable in the field. Dr. Guthrie, who advocates it, reports five deaths in twenty-two operations, in the Crimean war. The extent of the injury to the bone by the Minnie ball, which was not used by the Russians in the Crimean war, and the distance the wounded had to be transported very often in our service, are arguments against this operation. Transportation in shoulder cases is not so injurious, as its motion can be easier prevented. Hence army surgeons usually oppose the complete excision of the joint. One case is given of a sergeant whose external condyle of humerus was shattered. The injured part was removed with chain saw and gouge. In one month he had use of his elbow, and ultimately a

serviceable joint. This shows that partial excisions may be practiced.

Excision of the shaft of the humerus is not often required. If the bone be much shattered, and through a short space, say three or four inches, the part may be excised, the extremities drawn together with silver wire. Bony union, under favorable circumstances, will take place. If there is but little comminution, the bone may be left to nature to heal, but if it is very extensive, amputation must be resorted to sooner or later.

No general rule can be given. In one case of excision of three and a half inches from the great tuberosity downward, a good union and a serviceable arm resulted. Another of three inches, in the middle of the shaft, resulted equally well.

Excision of the shaft of either the ulna or radius alone may be successful, but amputation is necessary if both are shattered.

Gen. K., of 3d division, 6th corps, received a wound 5th of May, 1864, shattering the middle of radius. No operation was performed, except to bandage with splints, which caused great pain and swelling. Applications of ice gave relief. In two weeks he left the camp. Four months afterwards there were fistulous openings and disagreeable discharges, and the hand and arm useless.

In another case of injury of the lower third of the ulna, three inches of the bone was removed. In two months the patient wrote that the wound was nearly healed.

These two cases placed in contrast, exhibited fairly the result that may be expected under the different methods of treatment.

Excision of the metacarpal bones is not advisable. There will be a false joint, and the fingers turn under the palm, rendering the hand nearly useless. The injured bone and the whole finger should be removed. Two or three metacarpal bones may be safely excised.

No excision should be made in case of wounds of the

femur or knee joint. Fragments of the tibia may be removed, but complete excision is seldom admissible, and if both bones of the leg are shattered by a rifle ball, amputation is the only resort.

This is a brief sketch of the paper in which is given an outline of the conclusions arrived at by the writer after an experience of more than three years. General rules cannot be made. The good judgment and experience of the surgeon must be the guide in every instance.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel the Society adjourned.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *March* 8, 1866.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. L. Moore, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Babcock, Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Burt, Case, Edmeston, Lansing, Mead, Moore, J. S. Mosher, Robertson, Winne.

Also G. T. Stevens.

The Secretary's report was read, omitting at his suggestion, the lengthy report of Dr. Stevens' paper, and approved.

Dr. C. A. Bobertson read a paper on "The present State of Ophthalmology," giving a brief statement of the science as it now exists, discussing the philosophy of vision of myopia, presbyopia and astigmatism, with the proper treatment of these defects of vision. He also discussed the operations for cataract, giving the preference to that of extraction over that of displacement. He described the operation of iridodesis for the formation of new pupil, and of iredectomyas a measure of relief in some cases of amaurosis.

Dr. J. R. Boulware reported a case of complete obstruction of the bowels for twenty-nine days, from a twist of the

intestines at the sigmoid flexure of the colon, in a boy of four years of age, of scrofulous diathesis and constipated habit.

After cathartic action from castor oil administered the 6th of November, 1865, fæcal evacuations ceased; pain in the belly and vomiting for three days, when vomiting ceased. On the fourth day the bowels were distended and tympanitic, and pain severe. During the entire illness he suffered from painful borborygmus. Drs. Townsend and Bigelow were in consultation. Anti-spasmodics, mild and active cathartics and stimulating enemata were administered, and warm and anodyne fomentations to bowels; water was introduced through a tube passed up to the sigmoid flexure, which returned unchanged. No gas or fæcal matter passed.

After the ninth day no medicine was given but anodynes. The bowels had become enormously distended; respiration hurried and laborious, and pulse feeble and ranging from 120 to 150; emaciation extreme. Death took place the 29th day after the attack.

Post-mortem fifteen hours after death. Rigor mortis well marked. The colon was found greatly distended with gas; a complete twist in the sigmoid flexure was found, which entirely prevented all passage of gas or solid matter. The distended colon measured fourteen inches in circumference, while the small intestines were completely empty. No sign of any inflammation, even of the seat of the obstruction, and no other disease.

The SECRETARY reported a death from tumor in the brain. Patient, a woman forty-seven years old, still menstruating, but irregularly. Convulsions commenced in the left side of the face, and confined to that region for nine days, and occurred at intervals, varying from five minutes to one hour and fifty minutes. The convulsions were thought to result from uterine causes, she being then menorrhagic. Antispasmodics and narcotics failed to have any effect. Diagnosis was subsequently changed, and she was treated

with mercury and blistered on the neck, supposing that there were organic lesions at the base of the right side of the brain. No improvement resulted. In consultation, this diagnosis was overruled, and the first theory of epileptiform convulsions, occasioned by uterine disturbance, was adopted. Gr. xx bromide potassum and gr. iii valerianate of zinc were ordered to be given alternately three times per day, and ice to be applied to the back of the neck and spine. Still no improvement.

On the eleventh day there was hemiplegia of the left side, with contractions of the flexor muscles of the arm and the extensor muscles of the leg. The parts involved in the convulsions steadily increased from the beginning. By the twelfth day the whole body was convulsed at every spasm. Death took place the seventeenth day from the attack.

Post-mortem examination. We discovered in the anterior lobe of the right cerebral hemisphere, exterior to the posterior lobe of the corpus striatum, and involving a deep convolution of the surface, a hard granular tumor, three-quarters of an inch long and half an inch through, with a recent clot of blood connecting with it. Microscopic examination discovered granular matter, presenting the usual appearance of tubercle.

Dr. Babcock reported verbally a case of a boy having similar spasms, and no loss of consciousness, following a fall. The patient recovered.

After further miscellaneous discussion, the Society adjourned.

M. L. Mead, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *April* 12. 1866.

A monthly meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, April 12th, 1866, in the Common Council chamber.

Dr. Levi Moore, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CASE, HUN, LANSING, H. MARCH, DEVOL, MEAD, MOORE, J. S. MOSHER, ROBERTSON, VANDERPOEL.

Also, Dr. Stevens.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

After an amendment suggested by Dr. Vanderpoel,

Dr. DEVOL presented a pathological specimen of a scirrhus tumor, involving the uterus, bladder and vagina. A fistulous opening had been created between the bladder and uterus; the urine all passing through it. It was noticeable that the disease existed for a long time, and that there was but little offensive discharge.

Dr. H. MARCH reported verbally an operation for cancer of the penis upon a licentious old man of seventy-four years. The disease had existed five months. Before deciding to amputate the penis, there was an operation for phimosis. Five days afterwards, while the surgeons were dressing it, he had a semi-erection, and a seminal discharge, accompanied with excited muscular tremors, which the Doctor illustrated very vividly. After amputation the wound healed kindly, a short catheter being introduced to keep the urethra open.

On motion of Dr. VANDERPOEL, the Society took a recess of ten minutes, to wait for Dr. Edmeston, who was expected to read a paper. As Dr. Edmeston did not appear,

Dr. BOULWARE presented a gall bladder, filled with gall stones. The person from which it was taken had never had any symptoms indicating any such condition.

Dr. MOSHER remarked that this patient had died from taking arsenic seven hours after taking the poison, thus giving an opportunity, which rarely happens, of knowing just how much time had elapsed before the presence of the arsenic was discovered in the tissues. The lapse of seven hours in this case was sufficient to have the poison absorbed in the tissues of the spleen, the liver, the muscu-

lar tissues of the heart, and fat outside of the heart, and also in the pectoral muscles.

Dr. Robertson reported an operation for cataract for a lady 61 years old, blind in both eyes. Cataract in one, of six years standing, and in the other of two years. The operation was performed on the latter by extraction, with success.

Dr. Robertson also mentioned a case not so fortunate, of an operation for congenital cataract in a man twenty years old, by solution.

Dr. Mead reported a case which exhibited all the symptoms of gonorrhœa, which must have been taken from a discharge from an inflamed and ulcerated uterus from his wife.

Dr. Bailey moved to appoint a committee of three to revise the fee list, and report at the next June meeting.

The motion was carried, and the Chair appointed Drs. Alden March, Wm. H. Bailey and J. R. Boulware.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, the Society adjourned.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING

Albany, *April* 24, 1866.

A special meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, at 3 o'clock P. M., April 24th, 1866.

The following members were present:

Drs. Beckett, Boulware, Burt, H. S. Case, Craig, Fowler, Knowlton, Lansing, J. McNaughton, H. March, Mead, L. Moore, J. S. Mosher, Northrop, C. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Vanderpoel, Staats Winne.

Also, Dr. Geo. T. Stevens.

The President, Dr. Moore, called the meeting to order, and said:

Gentlemen of the Society—We have met together this afternoon to pay a fitting tribute of respect to the memory of our late associate, Dr. Leonard G. Warren. Full of

years, and after an honorable and successful professional life, he has gone to his rest. These sad occasions, so often repeated, admonish us of our mortality, and should incite us to greater diligence in the path of duty, that the summons may not find us unprepared when "ever the silver cord be loosed or the golden bowl be broken." I hope this Society will take such action as this mournful occasion may suggest, and pay a suitable tribute to the memory and worth of our late friend and brother.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON addressed the Society, and said that he had been requested to prepare some resolutions suitable to the melancholy occasion of the meeting. He said: "I have gathered from a member of the family a few particulars of the last illness of Dr. Warren, which will be interesting to the members of the Society. It appears that Dr. Warren had been suffering for some weeks from a cold, and that for the sake of change of air and relaxation from professional duties, he left home for Newburgh with a friend, a member of the Legislature. On Sunday, the 15th of this month, he had a severe chill, which was followed by congestive pneumonia. He remained very ill until the 19th. From that time until Sunday morning he seemed better, but was very weak, and felt doubtful of his own recovery. At 9 A. M. of that day, he complained of great distress and sickness at stomach, soon followed by spasms, which continued with more or less severity until 3 P. M., when they ceased, and he continued in a state of unconsciousness until 5 P. M., when death closed the melancholy scene.

"I have known Dr. Warren since he was a student in this city, forty years ago. He studied medicine in Bethlehem with Dr. Hallenbake, and afterward with the late Dr. Bay, of Albany. He attended lectures at Castleton, Vt., and was admitted to practice in 1826. He first settled in Bethlehem, and got into extensive business. While living in the country, he attended several families in the city. In 1854 he moved into Albany, but still continued to

attend several of his country friends. Dr. Warren was of Scottish parentage, in virtue of which he became a member of the St. Andrew's Society of this city, and at the time of his death was physician to that venerable association. He was a member in good standing of the First Congregational Church of Albany, and in all the relations of life, as physician, husband, father and friend, was exemplary and esteemed."

After these remarks, the following preamble and resolutions were offered:

Whereas, It hath pleased God, in His wisdom, to remove by death, suddenly, and to the members of this Society unexpectedly, our much esteemed associate and friend, Leonard G. Warren, M. D.,

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Warren this Society has lost one of its oldest and most useful members—one who had for forty years diligently discharged the duties of an extensive and fatiguing practice, until a constitution, originally firm and vigorous, gave way to the prolonged strain upon it.

Resolved, That we deeply lament the loss of our associate, not only on our own account, but on account of our city generally, in view of the probable visitation of a fearful pestilence, in the treatment of which, his energy, humanity and Christian charity, had his life and health been spared a little longer, might prove a blessing to many a family.

Resolved, That while we bow submissively to the decrees of the Almighty, Who does not afflict but for wise ends, yet we deplore his loss, and deeply sympathize with his afflicted family, in this sore bereavement, which is to them irreparable, and can only be softened by Him, who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," to whose fatherly care we would humbly commend them.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, we will attend the funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, the resolutions were adopted.

The Society then adjourned, to meet at the lecture room of the First Congregational Church, at 3½ o'clock, to attend the funeral exercises.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 12, 1866.

The semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held on the 12th of June, 1866, in the Common Council Chamber.

Dr. LEVI MOORE, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY, BAILEY, BECKETT, BOULWARE, CRAIG, J. F. CROUNSE, EDMESTON, LANSING, JAS. MCNAUGHTON, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, MEAD, LEWI, MOORE, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, POMFRET, ROSSMAN, SABIN, B. P. STAATS, TOWNSEND, VANDERPOEL, YOUNG.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. VANDERPOEL, of the *comitia minora*, reported that the credentials of Dr. George T. Stevens have been examined and approved.

Dr. A. MARCH, of the committee to revise the fee list, made a verbal report, and asked leave to be continued. It was granted, and voted that, when the Society adjourns, it is to meet at 4 o'clock, P. M., on the 26th instant.

Dr. MOORE reported a case of lodgment of a piece of an oyster shell in the trachea, where it remained five months, and was then expelled.

Dr. POMFRET moved that Dr. Stevens be admitted, on his complying with the by-laws and paying the initiating fee.

The following persons were proposed for membership:

By Dr. W. H. Bailey: Drs. John Ferguson, Albert Van Derveer, Charles Barry.

By Dr. J. H. Armsby: Drs. Robert M. Fuller, G. Truskatis.

By Dr. J. E. Pomfret: Dr. Michael G. Gilligan.

By Dr. M. L. Mead: Dr. Wm. J. Warren.

The Vice-President, Dr. R. H. SABIN, then delivered the regular address, which consisted of a very earnest, eulogistic memoir of the late Dr. Luther H. Barber.

Dr. B. P. Staats moved the thanks of the Society to Dr. Sabin, and requested a copy, to be placed on file. Carried.

Dr. Bailey presented an inquiry which had been made of him as Secretary of the State Medical Society: Whether a physician who kept a drug store, and sold patent medicine, could, according to the code of rules, be admitted to membership in the County Society?

Remarks were made on the subject by several members, but no action taken.

Dr. Staats then moved an adjournment. Carried.

M. L. Mead, *Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Albany, *June* 25, 1866.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on the 25th of June, 1866.

Dr. Levi Moore, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, Bailey, Beckett, Bigelow, Boulware, Carter, J. H. Case, Craig, Crounse, Fowler, Freeman, Lansing, H. G. McNaughton, A. March, H. March, Levi Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Myers, Newcomb, Northrop, Robertson, Smith, C. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Stevens, Van Olinda and Vanderpoel.

Dr. A. March, chairman of the committee appointed to report a fee list, submitted the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the subject of revising the fee bill of the Albany County Medical Society, would respectfully report that they have had the same under due deliberation, and that, in arriving at the conclusions of their report, the first question to determine was, whether we should recommend a fixed and determinate rate of charges or of establishing a minimum and maximum charge, a kind of sliding scale, giving each member the liberty of deciding for himself on any sum between the highest and lowest designated.

It will be observed in reference to the former fee bill of this Society, as well as to that of other societies, in many instances the rule of giving the

physician and surgeon the privilege of making their charges anywhere within the range of the lowest and highest point, had been accorded to all alike.

If this rule or principle has been found to operate favorably in part of the usual charges for professional services, your committee can see no great reason why it may not be proper to extend it to the whole.

It is upon this principle that the following schedule is submitted for the decision and ultimate action of the Society.

ALDEN MARCH,
J. R. BOULWARE,
W. H. BAILEY,
Committee.

The table of charges recommended was then read, and, on motion of Dr. C. D. MOSHER, the report was accepted.

Remarks were then made by Drs. P. P. STAATS, A. MARCH, J. S. MOSHER, BECKETT and BAILEY, on "Post-mortem Examinations," and the following charges were agreed to: Post-mortem, with dissection, $10 to $50; without dissection, $5 to $10.

Dr. ROBERTSON moved to read each division and fee by itself. Carried.

The medical and midwifery divisions were then read in succession and adopted.

Dr. ROBERTSON moved that the fee table on operative surgery of the Rensselaer County Medical Society be submitted for their discussion of the report of the committee. Carried by a vote of five to four.

Dr. J. S. MOSHER moved that the surgical division and report, as matured, be adopted. Carried.

Dr. BIGELOW moved that the extreme charges for minor operations be $0.50 to $25.00. Carried.

The following is the fee list as amended and adopted:

FEE LIST OF THE ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At an adjourned meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held June 26th, 1866, Drs. Alden March, J. R. Boulware and W. H. Bailey, who had been appointed at a previous meeting, a committee to draft a fee bill, presented a report recommending the rate of charges, which, after some amendments, was adopted as follows:

Medical.

For each visit in the city, by day	$1 00	to	$3 00
Night visit after 9 P. M. and before 7 A. M.	3 00	"	10 00
Consultation visit, for the first time	5 00	"	10 00

For Consultation visit, when repeated daily	$2 00	to	$10 00
visit in the country, ten miles or less, first mile	2 00	"	3 00
every additional mile	50	"	2 00
visit at longer distance by railroad, per mile	50	"	1 00
detention at house of patient, or in traveling back and forth, when more than one day is consumed, at the rate per day of	20 00	"	50 00
Examining case and prescription, with or without medicine	1 00	"	10 00
Certificate of health	3 00	"	5 00
Letter of advice	5 00	"	10 00
Physical examination of chest, heart or lungs	5 00	"	25 00
Gonorrhœa, in advance	5 00	"	20 00
Syphilis, in advance	10 00	"	50 00
Midwifery.			
For ordinary cases of midwifery	10 00	"	50 00
instrumental delivery	15 00	"	75 00
extraordinary cases, as turning, embryotomy, etc.	30 00	"	100 00
Operative Surgery.			
For capital operations, or operations of unusual difficulty, such as amputations of large limbs; ligation of large arteries; operation for stone in the bladder; removal of breasts, or other large tumors; operations for cataract, for strangulated hernia, for vesico-vaginal fistula, for cleft palate, etc. according to the importance of the case and the pecuniary circumstances of the patient.	35 00	"	500 00
For operations of secondary importance or difficulty, such as operations for fistula in ano; for hare lip; for the radical cure of hydrocele; tapping and injecting of ovarian cysts; reduction of dislocations or fractures of large bones; amputations of fingers or toes; tracheotomy; removal of small tumors, not involving important organs; passing catheter in cases of obstruction; ligature of arteries of secondary size, etc	25 00	"	100 00
For minor operations, such as excision of tonsils, removal of nasal polypi; tapping for hydrocele, or ascites; opening abscesses; stitching recent wounds, etc	50	"	25 00
After surgical operations, all subsequent visits shall be charged as in ordinary cases of attendance.			
Post-mortem.			
Post-mortem examination, without dissection	5 00	"	10 00
Post-mortem examination, with dissection	10 00	"	50 00

For all professional services not enumerated in the above, a proportional price is to be charged.

In every case, in settling his account, the practitioner may make any deduction which he conscientiously believes the circumstances of the patient render necessary.

It was moved and seconded that 500 copies of the report be published for the use of the Society. Carried.

On motion of Dr. A. MARCH, the Society adjourned.

H. MARCH, *Secretary pro tem.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *August* 23, 1866.

A special meeting of the Society was held at the City Hall, at 12 o'clock M., August 23rd, 1866.

Dr. LEVI MOORE, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. BOULWARE, BECKETT, CASE, HUN, LANSING, MEAD, MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, P. P. STAATS, VANDERPOEL.

The Society was called to order by the President, who said:

Gentlemen of the Society—Another of our number has been taken from the ranks of this Society by the rude hand of death, and we have met together to pay a fitting tribute to his memory and worth.

Dr. Wm. F. Carter, of Cohoes, died yesterday morning, at half-past eight o'clock. But few members of this Society, even those of this city, were more regular in their attendance on its meetings. He was highly respected for his skill as a physician, and his worth as a man. He has adorned the most honorable positions of this Society, and, like a shock of corn fully ripe, he has now been gathered to his rest.

I hope the Society will take such action as may seem fitting on this mournful occasion.

Dr. B. P. STAATS rose and said:

Mr. President—The remarks you have just made express my sentiments on this sad occasion, and I have no doubt

those of every member of the Society. I beg leave, therefore, to present, for the consideration of the Society, the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, it is appointed unto all men to die, and whereas our fellow member, Wm. F. Carter, has, in the full vigor of manhood, obeyed the Divine injunction; therefore,

Resolved, That this Society sincerely deplore the loss of one of its most worthy and useful members, and that the members of the Society will wear the usual badge of mourning, and will attend the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the above preamble and resolution be entered on the minutes of the Society, and that a copy be transmitted to the relatives of the deceased.

The resolution was adopted, and the Society adjourned, to attend the funeral of the deceased, at Cohoes.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 13, 1866.

The annual meeting was held in the Supervisors' room, City Hall, at 3 o'clock P. M., November 13th, 1866.

Dr. Levi Moore, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, Beckett, Bigelow, Boulware, Burt, Case, Devol, Edmeston, Fowler, Freeman, Haskins, Lansing, Lewi, P. McNaughton, H. March, Mead, J. W. Moore, Levi Moore, J. S. Mosher, Newcomb, Northrop, Pomfret, Quackenbush, Robertson, Rossman, Sabin, C. P. Staats, Sigsbee, Stevens, Townsend, Vanderpoel.

Also, Drs. John Ferguson, Michael Gilligan, Gustavus Truskatis and Albert Van Derveer, of this city; Drs. Chas. H. Allen, of Greenbush, and Mynderse, of Schenectady; Dr. John R. Gregory, of Troy, and the students of the Albany Medical College.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting, and the adjourned meeting of June 26th, were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read by Dr. BECKETT, and accepted.

The *comitia minora* reported that the credentials of Gustavus Truskatis, Michael G. Gilligan, Herman Bendell, John Ferguson, Chas. C. Allen, Albert Van Derveer and Warren Steenbergh, proposed for membership, had been examined and found satisfactory, and they recommended that upon payment of their initiation fees they be admitted.

This report was accepted and adopted.

Dr. J. W. MOORE, of Cohoes, then read a biographical sketch of the late Dr. William F. Carter, of Cohoes.

Dr. VANDERPOEL moved that the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Moore for the paper, and that a copy be requested, to be transmitted to the State Medical Society for publication. Carried.

Dr. LEVI MOORE, the President, then read the regular annual address, the subject of which was: "Sanitary Science, and its relation to Public Health."

The address exhibited the progress of science from remote times, and the benefit resulting from it to human life was demonstrated by the statistics of mortality of different ages compared with each other. The want of proper hygienic care, as shown by the fearful mortality of the children of the poor, especially in the crowded, filthy hovels of every large city, was ably discussed. It was shown, too, that attention to this service has undoubtedly been the cause of exemption of our eastern cities from the cholera during the past summer, while the cities of the west, which have been less carefully attended to by quarantine officers and boards of health, have suffered fearful ravages from the dreadful pestilence.

Dr. BIGELOW moved that the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Moore for his able and interesting address, and that a copy be requested, to be transmitted to the State Society as a communication from this Society. Carried.

(*See Transactions New York State Medical Society*, 1867, *page* 165.)

Dr. Vanderpoel offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prompt and efficient action of the Board of Health during the past summer meets the approval of this Society, and that so far as human efforts could avail, their labors were instrumental in arresting the threatened epidemic of cholera.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was voted to instruct the officers of the Society to transmit a copy of these resolutions to his honor the Mayor.

The following named gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. H. S. Case: Dr. A. De Graff.

By Dr. Sabin: Dr. John R. Gregory.

Dr. Beckett gave notice that at the next annual meeting he should move to amend the by-laws of the Society, so as to increase the initiation fee from three dollars to five dollars.

Dr. Boulware added, that he should propose the condition that the initiation fee should accompany the proposition for membership.

The election of officers for the ensuing year being next in order, the President appointed Drs. Case and C. P. Staats as tellers.

The election then proceeded, and resulted in the choice of the following officers:

Dr. James E. Pomfret, *President.*

Dr. R. H. Sabin, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

Dr. Thomas Beckett, *Treasurer.*

No election of Censors being held, the old board hold over.

The Society then adjourned.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *December* 18, 1866.

The regular monthly meeting was held in the County Court-room, City Hall, December 18, 1866, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

Dr. J. E. POMFRET, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. WM. H. CRAIG, THOMAS HUN, M. L. MEAD, G. T. STEVENS, A. A. EDMESTON, J. V. LANSING, J. E. POMFRET.

Dr. LANSING moved that on account of the small attendance, the reading of Dr. Edmeston's paper be postponed till the next monthly meeting, and that the Society adjourn, which was carried.

M. L. MEAD, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *January* 15, 1867.

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in the County Court-room, City Hall, on January 15th, 1867, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. J. E. POMFRET, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. BURT, EDMESTON, HUN, LANSING, J. W. MOORE, MEAD, SABIN, SIMS, STEVENS, TRESKATIS, POMFRET, VAN DERVEER.

Also Drs. Crandell and Rice of the Assembly, and Dr. Gregory, of West Troy.

On motion of Dr. EDMESTON, Drs. Crandell, Rice and Gregory were invited to take part in the deliberations of the evening.

Dr. TRESKATIS reported a case of "Phlegmonous Erysipelas," of great violence and extent. The patient, a Scotch seamen, 26 years old. There had been slight injury of the leg some weeks before the erysipelatous inflammation occurred. Commencing near the maleolus, it ex-

tended to the toes, and upward to the great trochanter. There was extensive suppuration of the cuticle, followed later by numerous abscesses, and great destruction of tissue, until the 16th day. Normal pus was discharged after the 22nd day. It was two months before healthy granulations began to form, and four months before the patient was discharged. During the whole course of the disease, there was no constitutional disturbance. When the inflammation was at its height, soothing applications were used, and tincture of iron and opium administered. Tonics and anodynes were administered throughout the course of the disease, according to the necessities of the case.

Dr. Sabin reported the treatment of two children, three and four years old, poisoned by belladonna. The quantity taken was not known, but enough to produce the marked characteristic symptoms of poisoning by atropia. Tinct. of opium was given in small and frequently repeated doses, with the effect of curing the younger in two doses of five drops each. The older child took large and repeated doses, till 95 drops were taken in eight hours, and yet the pupils had not contracted, nor the ravings ceased. But, with a solution of carbonate of ammonia, which was followed by vomiting, and an enema of oil of turpentine and castor oil, the patient recovered.

Dr. Pomfret reported a case of aneurism, complicated with tumor, occurring to a cavalry man, whose thigh had been fractured near the middle by being thrown from his horse. Before the fracture was healed, he fell while walking with crutches, and caused a comminuted fracture. Soon after, a pulsating tumor was discovered on the external aspect of the upper third of the femur, which was called aneurism of the femoral artery, and there was also a non-pulsating tumor on the left side of the thorax. The patient was very feeble and emaciated, and soon sunk and died.

Dissection showed a small aneurismal tumor of the external circumflex artery, two inches from its origin, and two inches in diameter. But the great mass of the tumor

was a cancerous mass, with the femoral artery embedded in it, but not affected by it. Cancerous deposits were found in various other parts of the body. The specimen was exhibited, and showed clearly the condition as described by the Doctor.

Dr. Pomfret also presented a specimen of osseous deposit in the semilunar valves of the aorta, a well marked case.

Dr. EDMESTON then read the paper for the evening, on "Malaria," of which the following is a synopsis: The term "malaria" is used to indicate a specific poison, probably of telluric origin, capable of inducing in the human system a class of diseases whose most destructive type is intermittent fever. It is described as emanating from certain soils under the influence of heat and moisture. But our knowledge of its physical properties is hypothetical, and its presence cannot be detected by the microscopist or chemist.

Because malarial diseases prevail in low and marshy situations, where vegetable decomposition takes place in the hot seasons, it is held by many that malaria is either the product of this decomposition, or closely connected with it, and some high authorities refuse to abandon this position, though malaria be admitted to exist when no vegetable remains have been found in the soil, unless the microscope has demonstrated the absence of all vegetable matter.

Although malaria is generally co-existent with vegetable decomposition, yet it will appear that it cannot be its necessary effect, when we consider that all along our Atlantic seaboard are extensive marshes, abounding in vegetable remains subjected to high heat, with other conditions supposed to be favorable to the development of malaria, and yet in many of them it does not exist. Vegetable decomposition often renders certain localities in our large cities intolerably offensive, and yet no malarial disease is caused. Thirty miles from this city, a mill-pond, covering five or six acres, used for weeks in the summer to

become dry, except the narrow channel of the stream. At such times, the surface exposed to the sun was soon covered with a greenish slime, and emitted an offensive odor, yet there were no malarial diseases in the neighborhood. On the Mohawk, four miles distant, agues were common. If the position that extensive vegetable decomposition may take place without evolvement of malaria, be true, it is also true that it may be evolved where there are no vegetable remains to undergo decomposition. Sullivan's Island, in Charleston harbor, is a mere sand bank, and yet is hardly ever free from malarial diseases. The same is true of several localities along the coasts of North and South Carolina, where the soil is miserably poor, and vegetation very scanty. Among the U. S. troops stationed there, more than one-half the cases of diseases are malarial.

That malaria is a telluric poison, inherent in certain soils in the same manner as their organic elements, seems to be proved by the following facts: It is never developed at sea. Malarial diseases are more numerous and more virulent in localities where it exists when the soil is first brought into cultivation, but becomes gradually less and less so, until they become almost, if not quite, extinct, if cultivation be continued, and return again if the soil is thrown out of cultivation and permitted to return to its natural condition. It is often confined to limits so contracted as to preclude the idea of its being generated by some peculiar state of the atmosphere.

In a soil capable of evolving malaria, the only conditions necessary for its production are *heat* and *moisture*. It never occurs with the temperature lower than 60° Fahrenheit, and this must be continued for some time. The more intense the heat, combined with a correspondingly high dew point, the more virulent and abundant do we find malarial diseases.

Malaria is confined to no particular variety of soil, but is alike evolved from the barren and the rich alluvial. Its climatic range extends over one hundred degrees of lati-

tude; flourishing in nearly the entire land portion of the tropics, it is found fearfully virulent thirty degrees beyond. We find it equally at Monrovia, on the west coast of Africa, and on the islands of the German ocean, and on the table lands of Mexico, elevated thousands of feet. The diseases resulting from it are intermittent fever, remittent fever, congestive fever, and a peculiar anemic condition called malarial cachexia. Besides, it has a pernicious influence on every other disease, especially those of the intestinal canal. Diarrhœa and dysentery are always very formidable in malarial localities, often requiring change of climate, and returning, when the patient returns to the malarial region.

Officers who had suffered from these causes during the Mexican war, found their diseases returning on being exposed to malaria of Virginia and North Carolina, and just in proportion as they were removed from malarial influences was the treatment successful.

To illustrate the laws and habits of malaria, the symptoms of its diseases, and the sanitary regulations requisite to successful treatment, the writer gave account of sixteen months' experience in Newbern, N. C., while in charge of the medical department of the 92d N. Y. Vols. The camp was on a sandy bluff, some ten feet above the Neuse, in a region recognized as malarious. The camp was enclosed by earthworks from eight to sixteen feet high, on two sides, and on the river side by a stockade. Much of the land around was alternately overflowed with water, and then dry for some time. The inhabitants in the vicinity suffered from agues and intermittent fever. All these circumstances looked unfavorable for the location, yet, by strict sanitary regulations and the prophylactic use of quinine, the command proved to be the most healthy in North Carolina. So that of four hundred officers and men, there were but four deaths in sixteen months, and only two from malarial diseases. Nevertheless, all the cooking squad, who slept outside of the works, suffered from the malaria,

and not a single one who slept a week outside escaped some form of these diseases. The colored servants, who had quartered a short distance from camp, suffered severely, and it does not appear that this race is less liable to malarial diseases than the whites.

The reading was followed by discussion by several members.

Drs. Crandell and Rice made remarks on the subject of the paper, and thanked the Society for the courtesy shown to them.

The Society then adjourned.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

Albany, *January* 18, 1867.

A special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was convened at the City Hall, at 1 o'clock, P. M., January 18th, 1867, to take proper action on the occasion of the death of Dr. Howard Townsend.

The following members of the Society were present:

Drs. O. C. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, J. L. Babcock, W. H. Bailey, U. G. Bigelow, J. R. Boulware, Asahel Burt, Jr., H. S. Case, W. H. Craig, C. Devol, A. A. Edmeston, A. Fowler, S. H. Freeman, Thomas Hun, J. V. Lansing, Jos. Lewi, P. McNaughton, R. S. McMurdy, H. March, M. L. Mead, Levi Moore, C. D. Mosher, Frank G. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, J. E. Pomfret, J. V. P. Quackenbush, P. L. F. Reynolds, C. A. Robertson, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Geo. T. Stevens, S. O. Vanderpoel, A. Van Derveer, P. Van Olinda, Staats Winne.

The President, Dr. Pomfret, called the meeting to order, and said:

Gentlemen—You are called together to take suitable action in regard to the death of our brother, Dr. Howard Townsend.

Arrested by the sudden ending of a life at its noon, and filled with sorrow at our bereavement, it is fit that we give expression to our loss, in all those departments of beneficent activity in which he so sedulously worked; that we record our admiring appreciation of his character—so simple, so noble, so inspiring, so imperishable; and that we may convey to his stricken family that condolence which springs from the assurance of profound sympathy, from clear and hearty appreciation of a life so exalted and beautiful, and from an abiding faith that the Divine Hand, now working in mystery and sorrow, is full of an all wise and beneficent Providence.

Dr. HUN arose and said:

Mr. President—It has devolved on me to give expression to the feelings of the Society on the occasion of the death of Dr. Howard Townsend. I feel that I have some claim to this privilege, even in this assembly, where so many of his friends are anxious to do honor to his memory; for I am proud to say that he began the study of his profession as my pupil, and that our intercourse has, from that time, been most intimate and affectionate. I have seen the generous aspirations of his youth pass into the steady and conscientious discharge of duty in mature years, and have witnessed with satisfaction his continually enlarging sphere of usefulness and distinction.

And now, when the promise of youth had ripened into complete performance; when the ties binding him to his friends and society were multiplied and strengthened; when a long career of usefulness and honor seemed to lie open before him, it has pleased God, in his wise Providence, to bring to a sudden close, this short but well spent life, and it only remains for us to express our sense of the loss we have sustained, and to pay respect to his memory.

I propose the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the members of the Albany County Medical Society, have assembled to-day with feelings of no ordinary sorrow, to express our respect and affection for our departed brother, Dr. Howard

Townsend, who, by his unspotted and most useful life, not less than by his eminent intellectual and professional endowments, has graced and honored our profession. By the consenting judgment of the whole of this community in which his life was passed, no one stood higher in all the qualities of mind and character which inspire respect, confidence and affection; with mental powers naturally vigorous and carefully disciplined by every advantage of study and culture, at home and abroad, he combined unusual enthusiasm and diligence in the pursuit of his profession and of kindred sciences. To these were added the most attractive and endearing personal qualities, a gentle and benignant temper, a strong sense of right and duty, a high and generous feeling that ever manifested itself in all his words and actions.

With a deep sense of the loss we have sustained, we feel that in cherishing his memory and imitating his example, we shall best honor him and ennoble our lives and profession.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to his family, with the assurance of our sincere sympathy.

Dr. Vanderpoel said:

Mr. President—In seconding the resolution, I too desire to pay my tribute of respect to the memory of a cherished friend.

For over twenty years I have known Dr. Townsend intimately, and for a portion of that period our relations were almost fraternal in character. Of nearly the same age, we entered the profession about the same time, and when he was first abroad, most of our studies were pursued in common. Following somewhat different paths in our professions, the passage of years bringing to each new and varied associations, we were not so frequently thrown together.

It however worked no change in his friendship, for he was ever the same true and manly friend, ready to rebuke, and equally ready to commend.

To the members of this Society, who have known Dr. Townsend long and well, and to most of whom he has endeared himself by repeated acts of kindness, the preceptor and guide of so many in their medical studies, it is unnecessary to speak in extended eulogy. Not one among our number but will recall with pleasure his relations with the Doctor, and will love to dwell upon the many beauties and graces which adorned his character. There is one point

only to which I shall allude, and which seemed to me to be a primitive element controlling and shaping his character. It was his strict *conscientiousness* and love for truth. Once assured in his own mind of the line of duty, and he never swerved in steadily enforcing and pursuing it. The word "expediency" found little favor in his code of ethics, if in any way it conflicted with the element of truth.

This principle was as rigidly carried out toward himself as to others. In the study of any subject, he was not satisfied until thoroughly conversant with it. His lectures to the medical class were confined as strictly as possible to the enunciation of facts, turning aside but little for speculation, and in controverted questions freeing himself as far as possible from bias or prejudice.

Impelled by so lofty a principle, there was a remarkable harmony in his character; and when, as with every person, errors of judgment occurred, the alloy was in small proportion as compared with the nobler metal.

Dr. Townsend's loss will be severely felt by this community, as well as by the members of his own profession. Leisure from its more active and practical duties, permitted him to extend the field of his usefulness. For years, in addition to his lectures at the College, and his attendance at the Hospital, he has been a trustee of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, a trustee of the Boys' Academy of this city, an active member of the new Board of Education, one of the Publishing Committee of the State Society, and an officer of the church of which he was a member.

Our loss must, however, prove his gain, for he leaves behind him a memory enriched by noble manly virtues, and finds, we doubt not, a brighter reward above.

Dr. P. B. STAATS said:

Mr. President—We have met here to mourn and pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of a great and worthy fellow member. Do I say mourn? Yes, to mourn over departed virtue and talents. *Jesus*, in his humanity,

wept at the grave of Lazarus whom he loved, and is it not meet and proper that we should mourn over the loss of him we truly loved and honored? I will not attempt to deliver a panegyric on this occasion. I have not the language to do justice to his merits, and will content myself in seconding the very appropriate preamble and resolutions offered by his friend and preceptor, Dr. Hun.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

On motion of Dr. B. P. Staats, Dr. Hun was requested to prepare a sketch of Dr. Townsend's life, to be transmitted to the State Society for publication.

Dr. Quackenbush then moved that the Society adjourn, and proceed in a body to the First Presbyterian Church, to attend the funeral.

The motion was carried, and the Society adjourned.

Martin L. Mead, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 19, 1867.

A regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, Tuesday, February 19, 1867, at 8 o'clock P. M.

President and Secretary absent.

On motion of Dr. Edmeston, Dr. J. V. Lansing was appointed President *pro tem.*, and Dr. A. Van Derveer Secretary *pro tem.*

The following members were present:

Drs. Beckett, Edmeston, Gilligan, Lansing, Northrop, Van Derveer, H. S. Case, Fowler, Hun, H. March and Vanderpoel.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel moved that Dr. E. R. Hun be invited to take part in the deliberations of the Society. Carried.

Dr. VANDERPOEL then stated that on the occasion of Dr. Bay's completing his fiftieth year's practice, an entertainment was provided by the Society; he therefore moved, that inasmuch as there are two members of the Society who have completed their fifty years' of practice, viz.: Drs. James McNaughton and B. P. Staats, a committee be appointed to report such action as may seem suitable at the next monthly meeting of the Society. The motion was carried.

The President appointed Drs. Vanderpoel, Fowler and Edmeston as members of the committee.

Dr. BECKETT presented a specimen, the result of Pericarditis, and also read an interesting paper, giving the following history of the case: On the 10th of March, 1866, I was summoned to make a post-mortem examination of the body of a child three months old, which had been suspected to have been poisoned by the mother. The child had been ill two or three days, taking medicine from a midwife; cried considerable the night before; at ten or eleven o'clock the mother took the child to bed, and in the morning the child was dead.

Post-mortem appearances.—Body well formed, and evidently healthy, till about this time. Abdomen, stomach and intestines healthy, and well nourished; diaphragm strongly adherent to the liver, over a large surface, and that portion to which it attached darker than the rest, indicating inflammation of the capsule of the liver; kidneys and other viscera of the abdomen healthy; thorax, pericardium found attached to the sternum; while dividing their union, the pericardium was accidentally opened, and out flowed a quantity of serum mixed with pus, not less than six ounces; pericardium adherent to pleura of both lungs; left pleura adherent to ribs, and left lung in a state of grey hepatization; right pleura also adherent to ribs, and the lower portion of the lower lobe of the lung congested. Within the pericardium there were fibrous bands and cords running in all directions between the heart and the pericar-

dium, and over the right auricle an accumulation of the same substance as large as a walnut.

Remarks were made by Drs. Vanderpoel, Fowler, Gilligan and Devol. After which the Society adjourned.

A. Van Derveer, *Secretary pro tem.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *March* 19, 1867.

The Society met in the County Court-room, March 19, 1867, at 8 P. M.

Dr. J. E. Pomfret, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. Bailey, Beckett, Burt, H. S. Case, Craig, Edmeston, Devol, Fowler, Gilligan, Mead, Myers, Northrop, Pomfret, Sabin, Sims, Van Derveer and Winne.

Also, E. R. Hun.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Edmeston, of the committee appointed last month to advise what action would seem suitable on the occasion of the completion of fifty years' practice by Drs. Jas. McNaughton and B. P. Staats, reported that the committee had consulted with a large number of the Society, and that the sentiment was quite uniform in favor of an entertainment on said occasion.

Dr. Bailey moved to amend so as to add to the names of Drs. NcNaughton and Staats, any other members of the Society who have completed fifty years of practice.

Carried, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

The chair appointed for such committee, Drs. Bailey, Edmeston, and Beckett.

Dr. Bailey begged to be excused, and, on motion of Dr. Mead, he was excused, and Dr. Pomfret was appointed to fill the vacancy of chairman of the committee.

Dr. Sabin reported a case of poisoning by opium cured by belladonna.

He also presented a specimen of an incomplete and strangely developed fœtus, which was delivered at the same birth with a completely developed and living twin child.

Dr. BECKETT narrated a case of a patient who had taken an overdose of opium while under treatment for pericarditis. Four or five grains were taken, and the symptoms of narcotism was relieved by five doses of 20 drops each fluid extract of belladonna.

Dr. Beckett also narrated the history of a child three days old, who had taken, by direction of a female midwife, five doses of castor oil, without producing any passage from the bowels. Examination showed that there was occlusion of the anus, but the child was too much exhausted to warrant an operation, and expired in an hour after Dr. Beckett saw it.

Dr. MEAD reported the expulsion of the principal part of a tape worm (teneæ solium) by one dose of pumpkin seeds.

The report was followed by an animated debate, participated in by Dr. DEVOL, who was anxious to learn all about tape worms, and of the efficacy of the pumpkin seed in expelling them from the system.

Dr. BAILEY remarked that the remedy had sometimes failed in his hands.

Dr. NORTHROP wished to know what was the particular principle in the pumpkin seed, and how it operated to expel the worm. He also questioned whether the passage of the worm could be attributed to the dose given, since portions of tape worm often come away without any medicine.

To the first question, Dr. MEAD replied that he could only say, that if the dose expelled the worm it would be said to have anthelmintic properties, which was only a term naming a result, without describing how the process took place. As to the second question, it was argued that we have no more certain result from particular causes in therapeutics than this, and hence we are satisfied in believing the effect to be *proptu hoc* as well as *post hoc*.

The President remarked that there were many remedies that would expel a considerable part of the worm, but in comparatively few cases are we certain that the head was found. The desideratum is a drug that shall accomplish this.

On the motion of Dr. Northrop, the Society adjourned.

M. L. Mead, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *April*, 1867.

The Society met in the County Court-room, City Hall, April, 1867.

Dr. J. E. Pomfret, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. Bailey, Case, Devol, Hun, Lansing, H. March, Mead, Myers, Pomfret, Sabin, Sims, Stevens, Vanderpoel, Van Derveer, Winne.

Also, Drs. J. S. Bailey, E. R. Hun and Doyle, of this city.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. E. R. Hun presented and described the sphygmograph, an instrument which is fixed to the wrist, having a delicate lever that is moved by the pulse. This lever is connected with machinery which delineates with an ink mark the resulting motion upon a moving card. Dr. Hun showed how this pulse line varied in different circumstances, according to the character of the impulse of the heart, and exhibited the pulse lines peculiar to the various diseases of the heart.

Remarks were made by Drs. Pomfret, Lansing, Sabin, and Devol.

Dr. Lansing reported a case of Peritonitis, from the presence of bile in the peritoneal cavity, which has escaped through a passage caused by ulceration produced by a gall stone.

He remarked that instances where bile had escaped into the peritoneum, through ruptures produced by force either of falls or gun shot wounds, were not rare, but ulceration produced by the gall stone is not common.

Dr. VANDERPOEL thought gall stones themselves caused peritonitis.

Dr. POMFRET introduced the discussion on Chloroform, by saying that he had used it so often, and never with any accident, that he believed it was not harmful. Chloroform, and nothing else, was used for anæsthetic purposes in the campaign of 1864, and no fatal results were known to be caused by it.

Dr. VANDERPOEL said, that in the army, where time was of great account, it was proper that chloroform should be used, on account of its speedy effects, but in civil service circumstances are different. Time can always be taken to procure anæsthesia from ether, which never had caused death. He said if any other article of the pharmacopœia had been the certain cause of so many deaths as chloroform, we should condemn its use.

Dr. DEVOL said the fault, in case of accident, was in the mode of administering it, so as not to permit sufficient inspirations of air.

Dr. MEAD said, of those who consider chloroform a poison, some think it causes death by paralyzing the nerves that control the heart's action, so causing death by syncope; others maintain that it paralyzes the nerves of inspiration, and hence death is produced by asphyxia. If the first supposition were true, the heart would cease its action before efforts at inspiration have ceased, and there would not result the engorged condition of the lungs, which is frequently found after death from chloroform. But if death is the result of asphyxia, then we can explain its mode better than to assume paralysis. It is believed by many that the only cause of death is the exclusion of atmospheric air. Too often the one administering chloroform forgets his duty to watch the operation, and fails to allow sufficient

air to be breathed to sustain life; of course, the patient is smothered. If chloroform is a poison, it would poison one as well as another; as opium and other poisons do. It is not sufficient explanation to say it poisons those who, from idiosyncrasy, are liable to it.

Dr. Stevens remarked that Dr. Snow never had an accident in administering chloroform to over four thousand patients. Up to 1860, there were on record fifty well-authenticated cases of death from chloroform, some of them in the hands of surgeons whose names would seem to be sufficient guaranty that it was properly administered; but if it had been so given, there could not have been any need of causing death.

In the army, patients were often put on the table almost pulseless with the shock of some frightful wound; chloroform administered, the operation performed, and the patient came out of its effect in a better condition than before the operation. Dr. Stevens said he had seen cases of death where it was plain that the chloroform had not been given properly. But death does not seem to be by syncope. The lungs are found engorged, meninges congested, the jugular veins full. This is not syncope. Generally the breathing ceases before the pulsations.

Dr. Pomfret, in reply to the argument of idiosyncrasy, said that there is this important consideration. We are giving an agent that contains no oxygen. If breathed alone, death must ensue; mixed with air, thousands take it without harm. Now, do all of these thousands take any other poison with impunity? This points us to the condition of its administration as the only way of explaining its fatal results in some cases, while so many are not injured in the least. It is sometimes asked, how long can a patient be kept under its influence without harm? Serious operations, lasting an hour or more, have been performed repeatedly, and the patients come out without any evil consequence. While administering it, always pay attention to the breathing, and disregard the pulse.

Dr. VANDERPOEL reported cases where the operations lasted one and a quarter and two hours with no bad result.

Dr. STEVENS thinks if air is allowed to be breathed alone at intervals, a patient may be kept under chloroform for an indefinite length of time. He has given it to patients having valvular disease of the heart and tubercular disease of lungs combined, with safety.

After the discussion was closed, the Society adjourned.

MARTIN L. MEAD, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 11, 1867.

The semi-annual meeting was held in the Common Council chamber, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. J. E. POMFRET, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. ALLEN, BAILEY, BECKETT, H. S. CASE, EDMESTON, FOWLER, FERGUSON, M. G. GILLIGAN, JOHNSON, KNOWLTON, LANSING, J. F. CROUNSE, LEVI MOORE, MEAD, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, ROBERTSON, ROSSMAN, SABIN, SHILAND, P. P. STAATS, VANDERPOEL and WANDS.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. VANDERPOEL, of the *comitia minora*, reported that neither of the gentlemen proposed at the last meeting had submitted their credentials.

The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership:

By Dr. Vanderpoel: Drs. Edward R. Hun and Daniel V. O'Leary.

By Dr. Levi Moore: Dr. J. F. McKown.

By Dr. Wm. H. Bailey: Drs. James S. Bailey and J. M. Davis.

By Dr. Lansing: Dr. P. M. Murphy.

By Dr. Pomfret: Dr. A. B. Heusted.

There being no further miscellaneous business, the

President remarked, that the Vice-President had some time since informed him that, owing to circumstances entirely beyond his control, he should not be able to prepare the regular address. He had, therefore, invited Dr. Robertson to read an address, so that we should not be without our usual paper.

Dr. Robertson then read an address on the "Origin and Growth of the Medical Profession;" tracing its beginning from the time when rulers, who, having the divine right to govern, were thought to have also a divine power over the maladies that the supreme powers inflict on men. Next, the priests were intrusted with the duty of caring for the sick.

From this dim and distant era till modern times, the growth and development of the profession of medicine was followed down.

Dr. Sabin moved the thanks of the Society to Dr. Robertson for his able and interesting address. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Vanderpoel, the Society adjourned.

M. L. Mead, *Secretary.*

FESTIVAL DINNER

OF THE

ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,

IN CELEBRATION OF THE

Completion of the Half Century in the Practice of Medicine

BY

Drs. JAMES WADE, BARENT B. STAATS AND JAMES McNAUGHTON.

The Albany County Medical Society, Thursday evening, gave a complimentary dinner at the Delavan House to Drs. James Wade, Barent P. Staats and James McNaughton, on the occasion of their having completed fifty years of active life in the profession. Dr. Wade, who lives at Watervliet, was not able to be present.

Besides the other guests of the evening, there were present Dr. JAS. E. POMFRET, the President of the Society, and the following members: Drs. Jas. H. Armsby, W. H. Bailey, H. S. Chase, C. Devol, A. Fowler, Thomas Hun, Alden March, Peter McNaughton, Levi Moore, Joseph N. Northrop, C. A. Robertson, G. T. Stevens, A. Van Derveer, G. H. Armsby, Thos. Beckett, W. H. Craig, A. A. Edmeston, S. H. Freeman, Joseph Lewi, Henry March, Martin L. Mead, G. H. Newcomb, J. V. P. Quackenbush, P. P. Staats, S. O. Vanderpoel, P. Van O'Linda; and also Drs. E. R. Hun, A. B. Heusted and P. M. Murphy; and also Rev. R. W. Clark, D. D., Alfred B. Street, Archibald McClure, Geo. Dawson, Charles E. Smith, and Luther M. Marsh, of New York city.

At nine o'clock the company sat down to a magnificently furnished board, and all justice was done to the elegant entertainment, which did honor to the accomplished proprietors of the Delavan House; and, at eleven o'clock, the President called the Society to order, and said:

Gentlemen of the Society—A few years ago the interest of Society was awakened by the blossoming of one of those rare plants which are said to open their rich buds to the sun but once in a century. It was a rare event in the floral world, although it was natural and ordinary to the plant.

Our interest to-night is not excited by a flower; but we gather here to honor three of our fellow-members, who have filled a half century of active professional life. How glad we are to do them honor, the spontaneous gathering of these long rows of medical friends attests; and I doubt not that in the Feast of Reason, which shall follow that of material good, full attestation will be given of the esteem in which we hold these gentlemen. As the first regular toast, I would give:

Our Guests—Whose honored names have graced our Medical Annals for half a century; may their days be filled with the abundance and beauty of a glorious autumn, and their lengthening years be crowned with honor.

Dr. B. P. Staats was called upon, who responded as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the Society—I arise on this occasion with unusual diffidence, for I assure you I have not language adequate to describe my feelings on this happy occasion. After being a member of this Society forty-seven years, and presiding over its deliberations as President three successive years, I find myself this night the recipient of its highest honors. And let me here remark, that during all that time since my connection with you, that I have never had the least cause of complaint against any of its members. On the contrary, I have at all times been treated with the utmost courtesy by all. It is more than fifty years since I commenced the practice of medicine, and yet it seems but as yesterday, and yet what great changes have occurred. Fifty years since Albany city contained about fifteen thousand inhabitants, and about twenty-five practicing physicians, among whom were some of God's noblemen, both as physicians and citizens. Few then in the profession were equal to them for worth or talents. They were a Willard, Stearns, Bay, Eights, Wendell, Yates, Beck, Wing, Williams, Low, James, etc. At that time our Materia Medica was limited to comparatively a small number of active medicines. We had no morphine, nor quinine, nor the various preparations of iron, iodine and the many alkaloids now in use; but they were well versed in the few in use; and like Paganini on his violin with its two strings, could make more and better music than many violin players can make on four. The practice in those days was active and successful. But they are no more. They have passed to that bourne where, I trust, they have received the happy plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord." And standing here at this time as their chronicler, it reminds me of a passage in the Book of Job, where it says that Job's sons were eating and drinking, and a messenger

came to Job and said that the Sabeans had taken his servants away, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Personally, Providence has dealt very kindly with me, and I have endeavored to second her efforts. I have never tasted *tobacco*, and for the last forty years have not used *alcoholic* or vinous *beverages*, and during the fifty years of my practice, I have not been confined by sickness as many days. Neither have I suffered my nervous system to be disturbed by the good or ill opinions that others may form of me, and when I retire to rest I forget and forgive.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON returned thanks in appropriate terms for the honor done him by his professional brethren on the present occasion, and mentioned that, from some questions asked of him when he came to the meeting, he supposed some of the younger members believed he had been in Albany from the foundation of the city. He then told that he was born in Scotland among the Grampian Hills, where "his father fed his flock," as did young Norval. "I received my early education at the excellent parish school in Kenmore, where young men were fitted for college. In 1812, I was sent to the University of Edinburgh. I had a brother holding the position of surgeon to a frigate in the navy, stationed, at that time, and during the war with this country, at the Halifax Station. It was my intention to enter the same service at the close of my medical studies. There was great demand for surgeons for the navy at that time, and I made all the haste I could to get qualified for actual life; but the great war of the French revolution took a sudden and unexpected turn after the disastrous return of the French army from Russia, and 1813 witnessed, in Edinburgh, the splendid illuminations consequent on the downfall of Napoleon the First, and the occupation of Paris by the allied army. The people were delirious over the return of peace, after an exhausting war of twenty-five years. Then, at convivial meetings, the favorite toast was 'Peace and Plenty.' But the peace did not bring plenty, any more than the end of the great war

of our own late rebellion, but, like the latter, it left heavy taxes to be paid, deranged business, and threw many out of employment. It also blighted my prospects. I had then full leisure to pursue my studies. The return of Bonaparte from Elba, in 1815, and the reopening of war, changed the prospects for a time. Some feared another long and dreadful war. Some, like our own prophet, thought it would end in ninety days. Happily for Europe, the war *did* end in ninety days, by the decisive battle of *Waterloo*, which secured comparative peace for fifty years.

"After leaving the University of Edinburgh, in 1817, I was at a loss what to do with myself. I was too young to settle in Scotland. I wished to see more of the world; but could get no public service that would enable me to do so. I could obtain strong letters of commendations to Sir George McGregor, who was then a General in the Columbian service. I had some thoughts of joining him there, when I was pressed by a large body of emigrants from my native parish and county to go with them on their voyage to America, and the owners of the vessel offered me the position of Surgeon, with the privilege of returning in the vessel on her return in the autumn. Having nothing to do at home, and having relations in America I had never seen, I accepted the offer. We left Greenock on the 28th of May, 1817, and after a stormy passage, and a narrow escape from shipwreck on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, three hundred miles below Quebec, we reached that city on the 16th day of July, all well.

"I left the good ship Harmony, Capt. Abrams, after a short stay at Quebec, and hurried on, by way of Montreal and Lake Champlain, to visit my American relations, having no settled purpose of remaining in the country. There was in Albany no one that I had ever seen, and only one * that I had ever heard of before. To him I had a letter of

* The late Archibald McIntyre, at that time, and for many years before, State Comptroller, and fifteen years after he became father-in-law to Dr. McNaughton.

introduction and recommendation. He received me with great cordiality and hospitality. A father could not have been kinder. By his advice I decided, after visiting my relations in Montgomery county, to settle in Albany. From that time to this I have been steadily and successfully engaged in the practice of my profession. I have seen Albany grow from a small city of about 11,000 inhabitants to a flourishing one of 70,000." He then mentioned how he came into notice as an anatomist, how he was appointed, first as a Lecturer, and next year Professor of Anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York; how that college flourished for many years, and increased from fifty pupils to over two hundred; how after a connection with that institution for nineteen years he was invited to take the department of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Albany Medical College. He also spoke of the several offices with which he had been honored by the State and by his professional friends, viz.: Surgeon-General, President of the County Society, and of the State Medical Society. (Omitting, by accident, we suppose, that of *City Alderman.*)

The next regular toast given was:

The Albany Medical College—From among its Professors comes a guest; and a large majority around our board are proud to own it as Alma Mater. Devoted to the highest science and art of medicine and surgery, may its years be innumerable.

Dr. MARCH responded, eloquently, to the toast complimentary to the Albany Medical College. He traced the incipient steps of its origin and history to the time when he was a student in Boston. He gave an interesting account of his student life. The preparation of his first anatomical specimens, the separated bones of the head and face, which are now in the museum of our Medical College; of the quizzing classes, of which he was a member, and of the facility then required for describing different parts of the human body; of the difficulty and danger attending the procuring of materials for dissection. While a student

in Boston, he was collecting materials and preparing himself for teaching; he was forming the nucleus of a museum, and laying the foundation of the Albany Medical College. He came to Albany in 1820, and the following year delivered a course of lectures on anatomy, with dissection and demonstrations from the recent human subject. At that time it was not safe to attempt procuring anatomical material in Albany, and he was obliged to make the overland and mountain journey to Boston, with a two-horse buggy wagon, for the necessary supply. This was before the time of railroads and telegraphs, when a journey to Boston was a greater undertaking than one from Albany to St. Louis at the present day.

These lectures were continued every year, until 1825, when he was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Vermont Academy of Medicine at Castleton. These lectures were delivered in the autumn, and his private course in Albany was continued during the winter months, to increasing classes of students from New England and this State. In 1830 Dr. March delivered a public introductory lecture on the "Expediency of Establishing a Medical College and Hospital in Albany." It was published by the class, and the following was the concluding paragraph: "I cannot close without expressing the well-grounded hope that the efforts now making by the friends of knowledge and benevolence will be rewarded with success, and that ere long this city will be able to boast of a well conducted Medical College and Hospital—institutions alike favorable to science and humanity. This lecture was delivered thirty-seven years ago. The Doctor's well and long cherished hope has been amply realized. In 1831, Dr. Armsby came to this city, and became a student of Dr. March, and was for several years his assistant, as dissector and demonstrator. In 1835, Dr. March resigned his Professorship in Vermont, which he had filled ten years, and was succeeded by Dr. Armsby, who commenced his career as Professor in the institution where he had just

graduated. From 1835 to 1838, Drs. March and Armsby lectured together in Albany, to very respectable classes of medical students, Dr. March lecturing on surgery and Dr. Armsby on anatomy. Dr. March gave an account of his efforts, by circulating petitions to the Legislature, etc., to awaken an interest in behalf of the College; of the opposition he met with, both at home and abroad; and gave a very pleasant account of the open but manly warfare that continued during ten years, between his friend Dr. McNaughton and himself, always so conducted that the most pleasant relations existed between them when they met, and which has never impaired the most friendly sentiments of esteem and regard which have been mutually cherished for more than a third of a century. It was pleasing to see these veterans in science, Nestors in the profession, the oldest medical teachers in this country, thus entertaining their pupils and friends around the festive board with the history of their life-long professional experiences. The first public meeting in behalf of the Medical College was held at the Mansion House, Broadway, where the Marble Hall now stands, on the 14th of April, 1838. Dr. March stated the object of the meeting, and a committee of citizens was appointed to assist Drs. March and Armsby in procuring the means and in securing an act of incorporation for the College. The first regular course of lectures in the College commenced January 3, 1839, to a class of fifty-seven students. Drs. March and Armsby are the only living members of the first Faculty who are now connected with the institution.

More than 3,000 students have been educated at this institution, and more than 1,000 have received the honors of graduation. More than two-thirds of the medical practitioners of this city and county are graduates of the Albany Medical College. Several of its alumni are now professors and practioners of eminence in the profession. Dr. March mentioned the fact that the first regular surgical clinique in this country, were held in this

college, several years earlier than in other medical institutions. He spoke of the museum, commencing with the small collection of specimens which he brought from Boston in a "Windsor Soap Box," increasing from year to year, until it has become the most extensive and valuable on this side of the Atlantic. He spoke of the Albany City Hospital, which, if not the largest, is one of the best arranged institutions of the kind in the country. He concluded by saying, our institution can not expect continued success without devotion and faithfulness in the discharge of our respective duties. The wish that its years of usefulness may be innumerable, we trust and pray may be realized in succeeding generations; long after the dust of those who are gathered here around this festive board, shall have mingled with its parent earth, whilst the immortal soul shall live forever.

The third regular toast was:

The Medical Profession—Earnest workers in every branch of inquiry which relates to human health, may the half century to come equal the brilliant record of the half century just closed.

Dr. Hun being called upon to respond to the above toast, made some remarks on the progress made in the medical science during the professional lifetime of our guests. He passed in review some of the departments of medical study to show how great a revolution they had undergone within this period, and how the present method of investigating diseases, give precision and accuracy to our comprehension of them, and thus lead to more certainty and safety in practice.

He particularly called attention to the fact that all this improvement had been wrought within the profession and by its members. During the last fifty years, several medical sects had grown up, parasitic growths from it, and had enjoyed a certain degree of popular favor. They had been well received by a numerous class of rich and influential men, and even by a few men of education, who ought to know better. Now, it is an indisputed fact that among all

the great discoveries in medical science during the period, not one can be traced to any of the outside sects. Each sect remains in the shape and position in which it came from its founder, and has not in the slightest degree contributed to this great march of discovery and improvement.

In conclusion, he remarked that the traditions of medical science and art as they come to us from the earliest ages, are to be found only in the body of the regular profession, and all hopes of its future progress must rest on this body; and that the outside sects must necessarily be short-lived and barren, because they have no roots in the past, nor organic connection with the present.

The next toast given was:

The Albany County Medical Society—Rich in associations of the past; cherishing the liberty of genuine medical inquiry, and holding the knowledge of one the property of all—may it ever continue a three-fold cord which can not be broken.

To this Dr. VANDERPOEL responded:

Mr. President—The Medical Society of Albany county has cause for congratulation. Established among the first of similar societies in this State, it has ever since maintained an active and efficient organization. This can hardly be said of any other similar society. Though most of them at the present time have awakened to new vitality, there have been long years of languishing, when the Society barely existed in name. I have been credibly informed, that in the city of New York even, the County Medical Society for a long time had at its regular meetings only a quorum to elect officers; and not until new life was infused by the untiring efforts of Dr. Bulkley, did it respond to the wants of the profession, either in a medical or social aspect. Not so with this Society. On looking over the transcript of its proceedings, I find the meetings have always been attended by the best representatives of the profession; that papers on medical subjects and medical discussions have occupied a legitimate share in the pro-

ceedings; and while at times the minutes reveal the evidences of warm and active strife in the efforts to obtain the honors of the Society, it served to show that these honors were rightly appreciated, and should call forth the best energies of the most talented members legitimately to obtain them.

The position of this Society is by no means stationary. Its course is *progressive.* Who that looks back for fifteen years, can fail to see an ever-increasing interest in its welfare and progress?

When, some years since, I had the honor to preside over its deliberations, a course of monthly meetings was instituted for six months of the year, at which no topics were discussed but those of a strictly medical character and calculated to advance the common welfare of its members. These meetings have ever since been fully maintained, and I may safely say the character of the papers presented, and the discussions elicited, would do no discredit to more pretentious organizations.

But, Mr. President, this Society has even greater sources of pride. She numbers on her roll of worthies the names of men who, as physicians, are cherished in this whole community with the warmest love—men, who, by their eminent attainments, their earnest sympathy and devotion in their profession, have wreathed around their memories a brighter laurel, hallowed by a richer incense than can pertain to any other calling. Others, whose names and writings are national, standing as monuments of patient industry, close research and infallible precision. Of the former, I need but mention Drs. Charles D. Townsend, Eights, Wendell, Wing, Bay and Cogswell; and of the latter, the Brothers Beck.

We need not, however, go back to the past for our roll of honor. There is one among us, active, untiring and energetic, whose name has attained a broad professional reputation; who has presided over the deliberations of the highest medical organization in the country, and who

still in the zenith of his professional activity, can point with well-earned pride to the noble institution, which he was largely instrumental in founding—a monument of his skill and untiring labors. What better tribute can I pay to the character of that institution than to say, that most of those around this table are either its alumni, or have attended its lectures. Such are but some of the causes of congratulation to our Medical Society.

There is a point of view, in which the principle of association is peculiarly applicable to the medical man. His professional life is one of *isolation*. While in the world, moving among men, he is still not of the world, so far as ordinary business transactions and relations are concerned. Unlike the legal profession, he is seldom thrown in direct personal relation with his professional compeers. He has, therefore, but little opportunity, except through his Society, of estimating them correctly, either as men or physicians. How rapidly has prejudice oftentimes vanished; how much more have we learned to respect each other since our meetings have been more frequent!

I can not pass, Mr. President, the last clause of your sentiment—the unbroken cord which *unity* presents. As in the family relation, the harmonious thoughts and actions of its different members constitute a bulwark of strength, so also is the principle of professional unity in its effect upon the community. It is ignorance which chiefly engenders suspicion and prompts to unkind aspersions. As we know each other better, mutual respect will increase, and our rivalry will be that healthy kind, which prompts to renewed efforts in the field of our science, and will tend to inspire additional confidence in the community at large, of the sincerity of our aims, and the nobleness of our calling.

The next toast given was:

The Medical Charity of our City, the City Hospital—alive to every call of suffering humanity, may its usefulness be as wide spread as its staff is skillful and its purposes beneficent.

Dr. Armsby, in response to this sentiment, rose and said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Society—The public charities of our city are her jewels. Our City Hospital, our Orphan Asylums, our Home for the Friendless, our Industrial School; these are the jewels of Albany. All honor, through all time, to the noble Roman woman who founded the first hospital for the relief of sick and suffering humanity! Another lady erected a hospital on the road to Bethlehem, "that poor travellers," as she said, "might fare better than the mother of Christ, who could find no inn."

The great Emperor Charlemagne built hospitals on the Alps, and Louis the 2d of France, in the eighth century, and the great Napoleon in the eighteenth, visited and repaired these hospitals. The merchants of Amalfi, in the eleventh century, built hospitals in Palestine and along the Syrian coast. "In Palestine, by the wayside, were noble hospitals, that day by day received the weary pilgrims of the West, and when it was asked who were the noble founders, every voice replied the merchants of Amalfi." The Knight Templars established hospitals in the twelfth century, in which are first reported the appointment of regular physicians and surgeons to attend the sick. The Nestorian Priests, of Persia, were the first to employ hospitals as schools for medical instruction. But before the students could be admitted, they were obliged to read the Psalms of David and the New Testament.

But I cannot now trace the history of hospitals, from the East to Europe, and the western world. The hospital institutions of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Providence, are among the noblest in the world. Our City Hospital, of only eighteen years' growth, founded by the the merchants of Albany, is the pride and glory of our city, the most honored monument of our ancient capital. Its five thousand patients cured or relieved speak its praises.

All honor to the fifty generous hearted women, who

have contributed to it! all honor to the noble hearted men whose wealth has sustained it! The citizens of Albany have contributed for its support more than $100,000 during the eighteen years of its usefulness. The demands of Christian charity now require its enlargement. Great hearted men and noble hearted women are providing the means; the prayers of the sick and suffering will reward them.

Our Orphan Asylum has been in operation nearly forty years. It has received from citizens of Albany $200,000, and sent out many thousand educated and christianized members of Society.

Our Home for the Friendless and the Aged—the best, the purest and the holiest of Christian charities—has, in the few years of its existence, received about $50,000; and is soon to find a permanent home on donated soil.

The Industrial School, nursed by the gentle hand of the soldier's friend, with woman's care and woman's love, will soon, we trust, find its destined rest in the place long since erected for the purpose, when the brave defenders of our country shall become the Nation's guests.

And let us say with Martial, who wrote not always wisely:

"Thieves may break in and steal away our gold;
The cruel flames may lay our mansions low;
Our dues a faithless debtor may withhold;
Our lands may not return the seed we sow.
But wealth bestowed is safe for what we give,
And that, and that alone, is safe forever more."

But there is an extensive class of suffering poor in this community not yet provided for. I mean those afflicted with incurable diseases, like consumption—embracing the mechanic, the clerk, the seamstress; and who has not seen the slight, pale form, wasting away by the fell destroyer? "There is a brilliant flush of youth about her, and her kindling eye pours such unearthly light, that hope itself might hang even on the archer's arrow, while it dropped deep poison. Many a restless night she paused for that

slight breath which held her from the tomb. Still wasting like the snow wreath, which the sun marks for its own, on some tall mountain brow, yet spares and tinges long with rosy light."

To supply this great want, a noble hearted citizen of Albany, who had lived a life of industry, honesty and frugality for half a century, has done honor to an honored name by offering to donate $75,000 for the establishment of a hospital for incurable cases of disease, on condition that the city of Albany will contribute its aid to the noble enterprise. May God grant a Christian response to this Christian offering.

I cannot go back one-half a century as a resident of Albany, but I can recall thirty-six years of friendly acquaintance with the *honored men* whose history we have met here to-night to celebrate. In 1831, when I came to this city a student of Dr. March, I first saw their faces, heard their names, and learned their worth. I well remember when I first met Dr. Wade, his manly face, clear bright eye and robust form. He was then in the full tide of professional vigor and success. I have met him every year since, for more than a third of a century, in practice or in social life, and have learned to respect his name and character. His sons, too, I have known in the medical and legal professions. They have done honor to the name. And his brothers, in the halls of Congress, have made the name illustrious in our nation's history. Who has not heard of "old Ben Wade," of Ohio? Bold, stern, inflexible, patriotic, of whom it has been said, "The country might look further and fare worse for a President." Time and fortune has dealt gently with our venerable friend. May God bless and spare his life yet longer.

Of Dr. Staats, my true and faithful friend, I know not how to speak. His name and deeds are known to every man and child in Albany, for half a century back. Our public works, our noble charities, our model institutions, all speak his name and praise him. Who does not know

Dr. B. P. Staats? Frank, firm, unwearied, indefatigable, enterprising, liberal, public spirited, enthusiastic, witty, lively, convivial, social—the most active man in our profession, and three score years and ten.

Of my colleague and friend, Professor McNaughton, I feel unworthy to speak as I ought. I well remember when I first saw him, thirty-six years ago. He seemed a giant then in our profession. He had been long eminent as a professor and practitioner. The fame of an Edinburgh education, under the Munros, the Bells, and Cullen; the prestige of years of success, and well earned reputation, with a towering and inspiring person rarely equaled, I shall never forget the first impression made upon my mind. Long years of friendly professional intercourse have only heightened and cemented enduring respect and regard. May the lives of our three honored guests flow on in the stream of time, and if wound up for four score years, then may they freely run *ten winters more*, till, "like a clock worn out with eating time, the wheels of weary life at length stand still."

The President then called upon the Poet Laureate.

Mr. STREET said: That as to being entitled to the honor of being designated Poet Laureate, Governor Seward, twenty years ago, conferred the honor on him, and there had been no ambitious rivals who wanted the place for the sake of the emoluments. He then read the following poem, which Dr. ARMSBY informed us was written since sundown:

A semi-century! what space
In the brief history of our race!
And yet how fraught with swift and mighty things!
The carol at our birth; our tolling knell!
With all the changeful objects of our life
That flit across our path on myriad wings!
The joys that thrill, the hopes that swell
The soul;—the pleasant glide, the roaring strife
Where man meets fellow man
In struggle for life's prizes!—In the span
Of fifty years, what changes mark the earth!

Mountains uprise in thunders; virgin isles
Dot the wide seas with newly-wakened smiles;
Even Empires rear their heads, and fall;
And generations pass, at death's relentless call.

But hail the famed Three
Whose life not only, but whose art extends
Over this semi-century!
And who with firm, free footstep, reverend wends
Life's pathway still! All hail the favored Three!
They form one starry company
Whom Fame and Science love, and long
May life sing in their ear its happy song!
For they have scattered blessings on their way
To all within their sphere; how oft at bay
Have they kept death even with his torch of fear
To light the destined victim to the bier!
How oft has dire disease before them fled,
And pain, that fiend, crept off with baffled tread!
Hail with pride the famed Three
Who, to the secrets of our frame
Leveled their life-long scrutiny!
And to whose keen-eyed mind trained knowledge came!
Knowledge full-fed from fifty studious years;
How to their glance that past of mist and change appears!
We hail with pride the famed Three,
Wreathed by this semi-century!
One, opening first his eye where rise
The stately Grampians in their heathery dyes,
Eternal Titans bearing up the skies!

And nurtured in the classic halls
Of the throned modern Athens, where
Blue Pentland sends his waterfalls
To mingle almost in the bustling air
Of the thronged city; where high Arthur's Seat
And storied Holyrood each other greet.
And one who drew first breath by thee,
Bright Hudson, vassal only to the sea!
Whose smiling landscapes, caught his childish eye,
Where still he dwells, as broad life's shadows lie;
Whose name is full of Holland! whose career
Is genial with its sunshine, kind and clear,—
The sunshine that illumes throughout the year.
And one whom rural hills of Berkshire claim;
Whose fathers felt imperilled freedom's flame

Flashing from Bunker's Height, and, feeling, fought
For the grand gifts with which our land is fraught.

We meet to render honor to the Three!
Long may they brighten life, and frequent see
Return of this glad day! for such glad days
Anticipate the future's hymns of grateful praise.

The next toast was:

The Homes we Visit—Opened to us in hours of keenest anxiety and greatest emergency, they afford us a true gauge of human affection, and are the surest symbols of Heaven; may skill and care make our visits few and our memories precious.

Responded to by Dr. FREEMAN:

Gentlemen of the Society—As I was entering the dining room this evening, the President requested me to reply to this beautiful sentiment, and as he would accept of no excuse, I am happy briefly to respond.

The relations of the physician to the patient and to the family are of peculiar and sacred interest, and his duties are most delicate and responsible. The skillful physician is often able to turn aside the shaft of death, to quench the burning fever, and replant the blooming rose upon the faded cheek. He is the first summoned amidst the anxious hopes and trembling fears of loving parents, to usher into existence an immortal being, and the last when the "silver cord is loosed," and human skill cannot avail to save life, to direct the weary soul to a home in heaven. And how often in the distressed homes we visit is the true hearted physician enabled by his tender sympathy and kind counsel,

"To cheer and soothe and bless."

Mr. President, allow me to close with a toast to the junior members of our Society:

May they emulate the attainments and virtues of our venerable and honored guests, and practically realize that

"Happiness is a road-side flower,
Growing on the highways of usefulness."

The next regular toast was:

The Clergy—May sound preaching and sound practice always go together.

The Rev. R. W. Clark, D. D., Chaplain of the company, having been called out by this toast, said, that he felt honored in mingling in the festivities of the occasion with so many medical gentlemen, distinguished for their professional skill, their high moral worth, and their wide usefulness in our city. In the two venerable Doctors before him, in honor of whose long and faithful service this sumptuous dinner was given, he recognized able and true representatives of two nationalities—the Scotch and the Dutch. And while sitting at the side of his friend, Dr. James McNaughton, who was born and educated in Scotland, he was thinking that had it not been his own good fortune to have been born in America, he would have been glad to have been a native of that country, so distinguished for industry, patriotism, enterprise, education, and a pure religious faith. Certainly, he said, no country of its size could boast of more eminent names in all departments of literature and science than Scotland. Of her poets, he might speak of Burns, Thompson, Campbell, Pollock and Montgomery. Among her historians were Hume, Robertson, Mackintosh, Alison, and the gifted Carlyle. In philosophy, she had an Adam Smith, a Reid, Stewart, Brown and Sir William Hamilton. Her scientific men were Ferguson, Watt, Sir David Brewster and Hugh Miller. She had also in romance, divinity and general literature, a Scott, Chalmers, Blair, Jeffrey and Smollett. Scotland was also equally eminent for its medical men, among whom were Abercrombie, the two Hunters—John and William—John Bell and Sir Charles Bell, and we might add the two McNaughtons [applause], who early came to America, and took up their residence in our city. For while speaking of the elder of these gentlemen, we must not forget the younger, whose valuable services among us entitle him to our esteem and respect.

In regard to Dr. Barent P. Staats, whose fifty years of medical practice was also here commemorated, the speaker found it difficult to believe that he had reached the venerable age that was claimed for him. Almost daily he saw this good

physician passing his house, with an active step, a vivacity of manner, a vigor of intellect, that belonged to a man in middle life. On his head, too, no gray hairs are to be found; and, said Dr. Clark, I think that I ought to claim a medical certificate, testifying to the fact of his age. [Dr. Staats immediately said that his baptism might be found recorded in the records of the North Dutch Church, of which the speaker was pastor.] Dr. Clark replied, that he would accept of that instead of the medical certificate. Reference was then made to the long and valued services of Dr. Staats in this city, and the wish was expressed that both of the gentlemen, in honor of whom this assembly was gathered, might have before them still many years of health, usefulness and happiness.

Dr. Clark then remarked that he could not allow this occasion to pass without paying a deserved tribute to the physicians of Albany. No city of its size, within his knowledge, could boast of a larger number of courteous, learned and skillful physicians than this. The Professors in the Albany Medical College, that has already attained a very high rank in our country, and the practicing physicians, are not only skillful and scientific in their profession, but their influence is most happy in promoting the enterprise, and the moral and religious interests of the city. We might mention the names of some before us, who occupy the foremost rank in works of philanthrophy and benevolence.

But, Mr. President, I will conclude by expressing the wish that all the medical gentlemen before me may be spared to render fifty years of service in the honorable profession that they have chosen ; and should their friends, in the future, celebrate, in a manner similar to this, their half century of medical duty, it would afford me pleasure to officiate as chaplain, and participate in the festivities as I have done to night.

The eighth toast given was :

The Press—The nerve-force of Society.

To this, Mr. Chas. E. Smith, of the Express, responded in his usual sparkling and happy style. He declined, being one of the younger members of the editorial fraternity, to eulogize the press. It was a pity that the heavy editor of the Journal was not there to tell how to make Constitutions, or the still heavier man of the Argus, who was busy now telling how to reconstruct the Government, or the witty man of the Knickerbocker, who would dilate on the beauties of the *weed*, or the facetious man of the Post, who would talk of finance. But in the absence of these, he was proud to represent the profession he served. But it was a hard place to fill. He would rather take the most nauseous dose they could select from their materia medica than be exposed to the sharp scalpel of their criticism.

The last regular toast given was:

Woman—All that is best and purest in our nature, in her blooms into perfectness of grace and beauty. May her smile cheer us, her sympathy sustain us, her character inspire us, and her love lead us into willling captivity.

To this, Dr. Quackenbush responded as follows: Most appropriately, Mr. President, have you reserved this beautiful sentiment for the last. Would that I could so highly compliment you in the selection of the person whom you have chosen to respond to it, a privilege which all might covet, an honor which I appreciate. The sentiment, then, is Woman. Woman! And whose heart so cold and listless that its chords do not vibrate under the influence of those five magic letters, as the chords of the Æolian harp vibrate and breathe forth their melody when swept by the fingers of the evening breeze. Woman! A name murmured beautifully, when the prattling infant cries with its little voice, Mamma! Woman! a word full of affection, when the parent says, Daughter! Woman! a word enlivened with the tendrils of affection and love, and when uttered, Wife! Woman! a name bathed in the fragrance of an almost holy veneration when it is whispered, my Mother! And why should not this sentiment be re-

served for the last? Was not the place of honor reserved for Woman in the world's early morning? First the heaven and the earth took their station in the creative array; the sun then ascended his high throne, and the pale moon came forth and shone in the borrowed light of her elder brother, while the glistening stars, with their twinkling eyes, looked forth their homage to the Queen of Night. The mountains and the valleys; the rivers and the ocean; the cattle on a thousand hills; the blue-eyed violet and the hardy oak and branching elm, and even man himself, were there, and yet the work was incomplete. One element was absent; one link was wanting. Then Woman was given to the world; the last star was added to the diadem of creation; the galaxy was complete, and Eve—angelical woman—assumed her place among things created. The star of loveliness; the emblem of purity! Appropriately, most appropriately, Mr. President, have you allowed this sentiment the post of honor. Allow me, in behalf of her for whom I speak, to commend you for your consideration; allow me, in behalf of the gentlemen present, to thank you for your gallantry. There is much, sir, in the character of woman, that commends itself to our respect, our admiration and our love. The delicacy of her nature, the fine susceptibilities of her feelings, and her humane and generous impulses, always commend, ever entitle her to our respect. Her fortitude and quiet endurance of life's trials and sorrows; that pliability of her nature which enables her gracefully to yield to the storms of adversity; and that elasticity which enables her again so nobly to rise when those storms have passed by, so briefly contrasting with the stern and oak-like nature of man which first bends and then breaks in life's wild tempests, are worthy subjects of our admiration; while her gentleness, her feebleness, her dependence upon man for her support, her comfort and her happiness in life, entitle her to the warmest feelings of our heart, and make her the recipient of our love. Such, gentlemen, is Woman, Woman! "who," as it has

been beautifully expressed, "is the rarest and most exquisite work of the great Author, illustrated by the Graces and published in Paradise." Woman! who from the cradle to the grave, is and ever will be an object of peculiar care and attention to the physician. And now, Mr. President,

Oh! why, tell me why, at the world's early morn,
When the earth was so green and the skies were so bright?
Was the young heart of Adam so sad and forlorn,
And his pathway so shaded by the clouds of the night?

Was it not, my dear Sir, that he sighed all alone?
And sadly bemoaned his poor desolate state?
Was it not that he wished to divide his fair throne?
Was it not that the Eagle deeply longed for his mate?

Then the mantle of sleep on our first parent fell,
And a rib from his side the Great Master did cleave,
And lo! when poor Adam awoke from his spell,
And gazed at the vision: Behold it was Eve!

The following volunteer toast was then sent up:

The two professions, law and physic—The former take their unsuccessful cases up, the latter send them down.

Luther M. Marsh, of New York, was called out by this, who entertained the Society with a most brilliant off-hand speech. Albeit he professed great diffidence as speaking before such an array of medical men. He said, widely different as the two professions were, we should not have to go far back, according to the Darwinian system before reaching a link that binds the two together, only a hyphen separating them—Medical-Jurisprudence. No one can tell which is the more important part of it, the legal or the medical. And it was T. Romeyn Beck who was the father of this science in this country, who published the first work in our language that deserved a place in our libraries. This, at first a small book, has now grown to huge dimensions. And without it no doctor's or lawyer's library were complete. He alluded gracefully to the guests of the evening, and compared the length of their term of service with the whole Christian era.

Dr. Hun offered the following:

Dr. Platt Williams, the oldest living member of our Society—the kind regard of his old friends follow him in his retirement.

The *young* Dr. McNaughton being called on, Dr. PETER MCNAUGHTON gave the following sentiment:

The *Vis Medicatrix Naturæ*—He is the best Physician and Surgeon who most carefully studies and follows her lead.

The New York State Medical Society.

Dr. BAILEY responded briefly, urging the members to use their influence with the members of the Legislature, to show them the importance of our annual transactions, and secure the publication of a larger edition.

The following communications were received from members not able to be present:

ALBANY, *June* 20, 1867.

To Drs. POMFRET, EDMESTON and BECKETT:

Gentlemen—I regret that circumstances will prevent my attendance at your gathering this evening.

The present is not a fitting occasion for the indulgence of sentiment alone, but is a suitable and well-merited attestation of that honor and esteem for faithful and unremitting service in, as well as for devotion and zeal to, the interests of the medical profession. I will, therefore, offer the following:

Prof. James McNaughton, Drs. B. P. Staats and James Wade: May the same peace and prosperity and usefulness attend the remainder of their days, that have preceded them, and at last may they have the satisfaction of feeling that their work has been well done; and not only receive the approbation of man, but the approval of a Father who shall welcome them to mansions in the skies.

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

U. G. BIGELOW.

ALBANY, *June* 20, 1867.

My Dear Dr. POMFRET—Motives of a private nature, I regret to say, will prevent my being present at your festivities this evening. But I can not let this opportunity pass without an expression of grateful remembrance of one of your honored guests, from whom I received my first lesson in my professional education. I give you, sir, the name of James McNaughton; my honored preceptor; the enlightened and accomplished physician; the worthy Professor; the Christian gentleman. He has fought the good fight against contagion and disease. May his declining years be cheered and made happy by the blessings of many who were ready to perish, falling upon him.

J. P. BOYD.

The Society then adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

MARTIN L. MEAD, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *November* 12, 1867.

The Society convened in the Common Council chamber, Nov. 12th, 1867, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Dr. J. E. Pomfret, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Allen, G. H. Armsby, J. L. Babcock, Bailey, Beckett, Case, Craig, Crounse, Devol, Edmeston, Fowler, Freeman, Haskins, Johnson, Knowlton, Lansing, Lewi, H. March, McMurdy, Mead, J. W. Moore, Levi Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Newcomb, Northrop, Pomfret, Robertson, Rossman, Sabin, C. P. Staats, Stevens, Vanderpoel, Wands, Whitbeck, Wilson.

Also, Drs. Heusted, E. R. Hun and Murphy, and students of the Medical College.

The minutes of the last semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read the report of the Board of Censors, presented by Dr. Vanderpoel.

The credentials of the following named gentlemen have been examined and approved: Drs. James S. Bailey, A. De Graff, Edward R. Hun, A. B. Heusted, J. F. McKown, Daniel V. O'Leary, John R. Gregory, and P. M. Murphy

On the motion of Dr. Stevens, the report was accepted.

A vote was then taken upon each one separately, and all were admitted to membership, on condition of complying with the by-laws.

Vice-President Sabin then took the chair, and the President read the annual address, on "Method in Medicine." At the close of its delivery, Dr. Vanderpoel moved the thanks of the Society to the President, requesting a copy for transmission to the State Medical Society. Carried.

Pursuant to notice given a year previous, to amend the by-laws so as to increase the receipts of the Society, Dr. Beckett moved to amend section 3, article 1st, substituting "five" for "three" dollars as the initiation fee.

Dr. VANDERPOEL moved a substitute for Dr. Beckett's motion, that section 10, article 1st, be amended, making the yearly tax on the members "two dollars," instead of "one dollar." The amendment was accepted by Dr. Beckett, and the motion was carried with one dissenting voice.

The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership: Drs. L. M. Dunkelmeyer, R. J. Bullock, C. E. Whitbeck, Alexander McDonald.

The Treasurer's report was read, and accepted.

The SECRETARY read a communication from Dr. Levi Moore, submitting his resignation as delegate to the State Medical Society.

The resignation was accepted, and the President called for a ballot to elect a delegate to the State Medical Society for the remainder of Dr. Moore's term, which was one year.

Drs. Stevens and Edmeston were appointed tellers.

The first ballot resulted in the election of Dr. Wm. H. Craig.

The ballot for the other officers of the Society resulted as follows:

Dr. R. H. Sabin, *President.*

Dr. J. L. Babcock, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Geo. T. Stevens, *Secretary.*

Dr. Thos. Beckett, *Treasurer.*

Drs. S. H. Freeman, W. H. Bailey, Jos. Lewi, Levi Moore, M. L. Mead, *Censors.*

Dr. C. P. STAATS moved the thanks of the Society to the President and the other retiring officers. Carried.

The Society then adjourned.

MARTIN L. MEAD, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *December* 18, 1867.

A regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Common Council chamber, December 18th, 1867.

Dr. R. H. Sabin, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Edmeston, Craig, E. R. Hun, Thos. Hun, Heusted, Mead, J. W. Moore, J. S. Mosher, J. P. Whitbeck, Stevens.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Prof. J. S. Mosher reported a case of poisoning by cicuta maculata.

Several boys, living just south of Albany, went out in early spring in the woods, digging and eating roots. They were taken suddenly and seriously sick, and one of them died, the others being probably saved by the prompt and efficient treatment of Dr. Wendell. A specimen of the root was brought me by him, and it proved to be cicuta maculata. It had evidently been mistaken by the boys for the fragrant osmorrhiza longistylis. It is one of the most poisonous plants that grow, and unfortunately but little known.

The Shaker packages of conium maculatum are labeled Cicuta, and several of our best works on Materia Medica make no distinction between the two plants.

The conium maculatum, or spotted hemlock, is common, growing by roadsides, and is familiar to all. The genus cicuta is represented in this country by two species, cicuta maculata and cicuta bulbifera, the former having two or three tuberous roots as large as the little finger. The cicuta virrhosa, or water hemlock, is a European species, with a larger tube, sending out numerous rootlets, and has long been known as one of the most deadly poisons. These are cerebro-spinal poisons, acting the reverse of strychnia, which, as has been suggested, is an antidote for them.

The best treatment seems to be to free the stomach by

emetics, and then support with stimulants. The order umbelliferæ in which these are found also furnishes many useful plants. It is most widely known by its garden and field varieties. The caraway, carrot, parsnip and celery are familiar examples. From the ignorance of the botanical character of these plants also arises ignorance of their chemical and toxicological character. I have some of them in my garden, and intend to become better acquainted with their properties. The terrible character of the cicuta and the confusion of names which identify it with conium, make the subject worthy of our serious attention.

Dr. STEVENS remarked, that although the cicuta maculata and cicuta bulbosa are natives of all sections of this State, they are not common, and hence are not generally known even by medical men. They inhabit swampy meadows and borders of marshes, and are usually surrounded by tall grasses. Both species have marked characteristics, and if once recognized need never afterwards be mistaken. They have finely divided leaves and white flowers. The cicuta bulbosa has little bulbs in the axils of the leaves. A peculiarity of this order is, that as a rule the plants growing in wet places contain a varied narcotic poison, while those growing in dry places are harmless. The cicuta Alexander's and Ethusa (fool's parsley) are examples of the former class; the carrot, parsnips, sweet cicely and caraway of the latter. People should be warned to avoid all plants growing in wet places, and which have umbrella like inflorescence.

Dr. Stevens reported a case of ectopia of the bladder, with an improved instrument for its relief. The bladder stands out upon the abdomen like a large tumor; is raw and bleeding. The penis is a little more than an inch long, and imperforate; the ureters open between the bladder and penis, and the urine drops continually. The instrument is a shield of vulcanized rubber, moulded exactly to fit the abdomen and cover the genitals. A little funnel at the lower extemity carries the urine into a rub-

ber tube and sack, which is lodged in the boot; steel springs, with pads, keep it in place. Dr. Stevens also reported a remarkable attempt at suicide after a serious surgical operation.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey spoke of the propriety of an entertainment for the State Medical Society at its next meeting, and moved that a committee of three be appointed to take such action as should be necessary in the matter.

Drs. Quackenbush, W. H. Bailey and J. S. Mosher were appointed such committee. Adjourned.

Geo. T. Stevens, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *January* 15, 1868.

The regular monthly meeting was held in the City Hall, January 15th, 1868.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, Edmeston, Fowler, E. R. Hun, Heusted, H. March, Mead, J. W. Moore, Myers, Newcomb, Northrop, Pomfret, Stevens and Van Derveer.

Dr. J. W. Moore presented a paper giving the history of the course and duration of the epidemic which prevailed at Cohoes for two or three months last fall. Cohoes is not situated in a malarial region, and fevers seldom prevail there as epidemics. There are occasional cases of typhoid, remittent and intermittent fevers, but when the latter is met with its origin is usually traced to poison received elsewhere. The fevers that prevailed there last fall had two distinct characters—a sort of bilious remittent and typhoid. In some cases the two characteristic forms were blended. Some cases would commence as remittents, running their course as such, and terminate in convalescence in ten or twelve days. Others commenced as remittents, and took on typhoid form in about

twelve or fifteen days, and run for twelve or fifteen days longer. Still others commenced as continued fever, typhoid symptoms setting in as early as the fifth or sixth day. These run their course in two, three or four weeks. In the remittent form, symptoms were not very well defined, yet there was considerable gastric uneasiness, nausea and vomiting, headache, pain in the back and calves of the legs for some days preceding the attack. When vomiting set in early, the disease run its course much more mildly than when it did not. Hence emetics seemed indicated in the early stage, and Dr. Moore believed that he had often been able, by the use of emetics, to break up the fever in the very start.

The disease was ushered in by a chill, followed by violent fever, remissions and exacerbations followed at uncertain intervals. Vomiting rarely occurred after the disease was fairly established. The tongue was coated with a thick yellowish fur; pulse 95 to 100; bleeding at the nose, in five or seven cases; slight diarrhœa at the commencement, stopping in two or three days. The disease terminated favorably in ten or twelve days, unless typhoid symptoms set in which were characterized by petechia on the chest, and dry and furred tongue, tympanitic pain in right iliac fossa, hemorrhage from the bowels, and more or less delirium. Convalescence, when established, was rapid. In the typhoid form, characteristic symptoms, diarrhœa, petechia, sordes on teeth, and delirium commenced about the third or fourth day.

There were about 300 cases, of which twenty died.

Dr. Moore also related a very interesting case of compound dislocation of the elbow: Bernard Vaughn, aged twelve, fell thirty-five feet from a ladder, striking upon a board with outstretched arm, producing compound dislocation of the lower end of humerus. The inner border of brachialis anticus ruptured, the tendon of the biceps exposed, ulna and radius thrown upward and backward.

The dislocation was reduced without much difficulty,

and the arm placed in an angular splint of tin. In about ten days passive motion was commenced, and he had tolerable use of the arm, and at present he has perfect use of it.

Dr. E. R. Hun said that he had met with several cases of scarlatina, where no rash presented itself. Diagnosis was made by finding albumen in the urine, and desquamation of the cuticle.

Dr. Fowler spoke of a remarkable case of injury of both eyes, which had been seen by Dr. Stevens.

Some discussion arising regarding the use of bromide of potassium in nervous complaints,

Dr. Pomfret remarked that he had used it in several cases of epilepsy, at the Soldiers' Home, for two years continuously. The effect had been to reduce the number and severity of the attacks while the medicine was administered, but whether any permanent good was attained was still to be seen. He would, at some future day, make a full report of the cases to the Society.

Dr. Mead remarked, that in a case of convulsions arising from venerial excess in a newly married man, he had administered the bromide, with the best results.

Dr. Edmeston had given it in cases of restlessness when other agents had failed to induce sleep, with entire success.

There being no report from the Committee on Entertainment of the State Medical Society, the Society adjourned, to meet on Wednesday, Jan. 22d, at half-past four, P. M.

Geo. T. Stevens, *Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Albany, *January 22d*, 1868.

The Society met according to adjournment, at the Medical College Library Room.

Dr. Sabin, President, in the chair.

Present :

Drs. J. H. Armsby, J. S. Bailey, Beckett, Case, Fer-

GUSON, HEUSTED, LANSING, J. S. MOSHER, A. MARCH, MCKOWN, POMFRET, QUACKENBUSH, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, SABIN, STEVENS.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH, chairman of Committee on Entertainment of State Medical Society, stated that no definite action had been taken by the committee, though the members had made some progress.

After some discussion, the Society resolved to leave the whole subject with the committee, Drs. Quackenbush, Mosher and Bailey, with instructions to consult with citizens of Albany. Adjourned.

GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *March*, 1868.

The Society met in the City Hall.

Dr. SABIN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. W. H. BAILEY, EDMESTON, HEUSTED, E. R. HUN, MEAD, ROBERTSON, STEVENS, VAN DERVEER.

Dr. VAN DERVEER read an interesting and instructive paper on "Sun Stroke." The subject was discussed at some length by the members present.

Dr. HEUSTED exhibited a pathological specimen, showing extensive tuberculous deposits in the abdominal cavity. He also related the history of the case.

Dr. ROBERTSON read a paper on "Astigmatism."

The meeting then adjourned.

GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *April 16th*, 1868.

The Society met in the City Hall, April 16th.

Dr. SABIN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Craig, Case, Devol, Edmeston, Mead, H. March, J. S. Mosher, Sabin, Stevens, Van Derveer.

Dr. Henry March presented several interesting pathological specimens, with their histories.

Case I.—*Strangulated Fermoral Hernia.*—Specimen: A portion of intestine, considerably distended, and gangrenous. *History:* Mrs. C. W., aged 64; German. Always a hard-working woman. While lifting a heavy wash tub, fifteen years ago, a femoral hernia was produced on the right side, which could be reduced. Her appetite was poor; she seldom relished food; was habitually constipated and medicines did not operate readily. Various trusses were used, but none proved effectual in preventing protrusion of the bowel.

On Monday, March 28th, 1868, a new femoral hernia appeared on the left side, not entirely unexpected, as she had had pain in the region for some time previous. She had been out washing for three or four successive days, and at night had been obliged to attend a restless child, which she often lifted from one side of the bed to the other. When the hernia occurred, it was attended with much uneasiness and pain, with vomiting, and all the characteristic symptoms of strangulated hernia. A physician was called, but did not give a diagnosis of the case for a day or two, then gave his opinion that it was hernia, and advised them to send for a surgeon, and left the case.

During the time from Monday until the following Saturday nothing was done, except the administration of cathartics, which proved ineffectual, as she was unable to retain anything upon the stomach. Her condition became deplorable; she was worn out, unable to take nourishment, tormented by constant and intense thirst, which could not be allayed, as no fluid remained upon the stomach.

Operation by Dr. Alden March, March 28th, 1868.—Making a ⊥ shaped incision, he proceeded to divide the intervening tissues until he had cut through the perito-

neum, when a knuckle of intestine, very thickly covered with omentum, presented itself. Laying aside the scalpel to put back the adipose tissue, dilated the stricture with his finger, and the reduction of the hernia was quickly accomplished.

The incision was closed with sutures, a compress applied which was retained by adhesive straps and a T bandage.

The symptoms remained nearly the same as before the operation. Enemas were tried, with no effect, upon the bowel. She gradually sunk, and died on the 31st of March, 1868.

Post-mortem—External appearances. Abdomen a little tympanitic; edges of incision a little gangrenous; knuckle of intestine with gangrenous patches.

CASE II.—*Ovarian tumor*—M. A. W., aged fifty-eight, began to suffer from pain in the right side, when eighteen years of age, with slight enlargement of abdomen. Was attended by Dr. Platt Williams, who called it dyspepsia, the consequence of her sedentary life, and very irregular habits in eating and evacuating her bowels.

After a year or more, the pain in the side became, at times, very severe, and was then supposed to proceed from abscess of the liver. For more than twenty years the condition continued much the same, with some variation in size and constant alternations of severe pain and comparative ease.

Dr. Williams having removed from the city, Dr. Eights became her physician, and pronounced her disease enlargement and chronic ulceration of the liver. About twelve years ago her size began to increase rapidly, and her suffering, at times, now very acute. The particular symptoms were, at such times, apparent inflammation of the whole surface of the abdomen, and inability to move without excruciating pain. This has been her condition until her death. That mental delicacy and sensitiveness caused her indiscribable distress, and made her shrink from all observation, and when Dr. Eights died, she utterly refused

to have another physician, consequently there was no one to note the progress or peculiar phases of her disease. The extraneous matter removed after her death weighed one hundred and five pounds, and this enormous weight will be better understood when it is known that she was a very small, delicate person, her natural weight never exceeding eighty pounds.

[The foregoing is taken literally from that furnished by a sister of the deceased.]

Note by Dr. March—The menses occurred all the time, being irregular and scanty, until the change of life. Death occurred April 7, 1868.

Post-mortem—Body emaciated; abdomen greatly distended; naval protruded; lower ribs pushed upward and forward. A large sized trochar was plunged into the abdomen, when a fluid, about the consistence of cream and the color of coffee, flowed through the canula. After discharging about twenty minutes, it ceased. An incision was made the whole length of the abdomen, revealing an ovarian cyst, the walls of which were thick, and studded with osseous (cartilaginous) formations.

There remained a large quantity of fluid, in which floated a brain-like substance.

The sack lay free in the abdomen, the adhesions being few and slight. The left ovary and fallopian tubes showed disease, the ovary being shrunken and degenerated into fibro-cartilaginous and bony material. Fallopian tube partaking of the same nature; its caliber shrunken, almost ossific. The right ovary had become the enormous cyst, now exhibited, which, together with the contained fluid, weighed at death one hundred and five pounds.

Uterus—Os tincæ and neck healthy, the fundus covered with a fleshy excrescence or tag; interior wall healthy.

Dr. Clayn, of Manchester, Eng., examined five hundred cases, in four-fifths of which the right ovary was diseased.

Case III.—*Osteo cephaloma*—Mrs. D., aged 47. In the fall of 1865, first noticed some swelling of the left knee-

joint, between the articulation, attended with pain, but not sufficient to prevent the use of the limb in walking till January, 1866, when she injured the diseased part. From that time enlargement of the upper end of the tibia was well marked, and she was unable to use the limb. A soft boggy swelling, of nearly the size of a goose egg, was located at the head of the tibia, and the whole leg was much enlarged by œdema. The general health of the patient was good, and she had suffered but little pain for the last few weeks.

Diagnosis—Osteo cephaloma, commencing in the cancellus structure of the head of tibia.

Treatment—Amputation above the knee.

Pathological specimen—wet. Much of the enlargement of the limb is seen to be made up of adipose tissue, an inch or more in thickness.

Pathological specimen—dry. Cancelli degenerated, upper portion of the tibia below the head forming an ellipsoid enlargement, only a thin shell of natural bone remaining on the posterior portion of the enlargement. All the rest degenerated.

Dr. BECKETT related a case of fracture of the skull, with laceration of the membranes, and destruction of a portion of the brain substance, with recovery. On the 9th of July, he was called to see Elizabeth Liston, aged 13, residing in Central avenue. The patient had entered St. Patrick's church, when being built, to gather wood. While stooping to pick up some chips, a carpenter's axe fell from the roof of the building, a distance of thirty feet, striking her on the upper and anterior portion of the head, driving in a piece of frontal bone measuring an inch and five-eighths long by an inch and one-eighth wide, through the membrane, opening the longitudinal sinus, and penetrating the substance of the brain to the depth of two inches. The doctor found her quite insensible, breathing stertorous, pulse 70, irregular. Upon drawing out the hair that had been driven into the wound, it brought with it a portion of

brain as large as the first joint of the index finger. The detached portion of bone was elevated to its proper place, and a compress bandage applied, which partially restrained the hemorrhage. Calling Dr. Pomfret to his assistance, the detached portion of the bone was removed, when the hemorrhage became alarming; a current of arterial and venous blood flowed from the brain, compelling the immediate renewal of the compress. At 6 o'clock P. M., nearly seven hours after the first visit, Dr. B. visited the patient, and found that she had been conscious since 3 o'clock. There was no sickness at stomach; pulse 75, and weak.

July 20. In company with Dr. Pomfret, the compress was removed; no bleeding. The patient had passed a restless night, and complained of headache; otherwise was comfortable. Cold water was applied. Directed beef tea to be administered, and the patient to be kept quiet.

July 21. Had a better night; is cheerful and stronger. Water dressings continued with the nourishment.

July 25. Rapidly recovering strength; wound suppurating freely, and free from pain.

On the 13th of August the wound was perfectly healed.

The Society then adjourned.

GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June 9th*, 1868.

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Albany County Medical Society was held in the Common Council chamber, at 3 o'clock P. M., June 9th, 1868.

Dr. R. H. SABIN, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. J. S. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CRAIG, FOWLER, LANSING, J. S. MOSHER, H. MARCH, VAN DERVEER, BECKETT, CASE, FREEMAN, HEUSTED, MEAD, J. W. MOORE, NORTHROP STEVENS, VANDERPOEL.

Also, Drs. Jno. R. Gregory and W. B. Chambers.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Dr. MEAD gave notice that he should, at a future meeting, move to amend the by-laws of the Society, by providing that, when a candidate elected to membership fails to comply with the requirements of the by-laws before the next regular meeting, such election shall be void.

Dr. FREEMAN, from the *comitia minora*, reported that the credentials of Dr. C. E. Whitbeck, of Cohoes, were examined and found satisfactory.

The report was received, and Dr. Whitbeck was elected a member of the Society.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Craig: Dr. Jno. Thompson, of Albany.

By Dr. Heusted: Dr. Richard D. Travers, of Green Island.

Referred to the Censors.

The SECRETARY introduced the subject of the meetings of the Society for the coming year, remarking that some action should be taken to increase the interest.

Dr. MEAD presented the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Society hold meetings twice each month, from the first of September to the first of June.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to engage a room and arrange for refreshments for such meetings, and that the first of these meetings the members be notified as usual.

Adopted.

Drs. M. L. Mead, G. T. Stevens and Thos. Beckett were appointed as such Committee.

Dr. BECKETT, Treasurer, presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the following members of this Society be suspended from membership until such time as they shall have paid their annual dues and that the Secretary be instructed to notify them of their suspension, viz.: Drs. M. M. Lamb, Staats, Winne, J. T. Van Alstyne, J. Sheriff, and B. B. Fredenburgh.

The Vice-President not being present, there was no address. The Society adjourned.

GEORGE T. STEVENS, *Secretary*.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *September* 22, 1868.

The Society met at the City Hospital in a room furnished the Society by the Governors of the Hospital.

Dr. R. H. Sabin, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. Alexander, G. H. Armsby, J. S. Bailey, Boulware, W. H. Bailey, Beckett, Babcock, Case, Edmeston, Heusted, Thomas Hun, E. R. Hun, Alden March, J. S. Mosher, Mead, Pomfret, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Van Derveer, C. E. Whitbeck and J. P. Whitbeck.

Also, Dr. Bullock, of this city.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Alden March, in a few pleasant remarks, welcomed the Society, in behalf of the Governors and Staff of the Hospital, to the pleasant room appropriated to the use of the Society.

Dr. J. L. Babcock reported a case of delirium tremens treated by the bromide of potassium: A gentleman had been long in the habit about once in a year of giving himself up to drink for a month or more at a time, commencing the debauch with lager, and ending with strong liquors. The last debauch continued six weeks. Dr. Babcock then found him in a state of great nervousness, unable to sleep, with twitching of tendons and irritability of stomach. Gave small doses of camphor and opium every two hours for twenty-four hours, without any improvement. He then administered bromide of potassium in doses of fifteen grains every four hours. In forty-eight hours the tremors were gone, and the patient was perfectly calm.

Dr. Sabin had used bromide of ammonium when he wished a stimulating agent which should allay nervous irritability.

Dr. March had a female patient who had tremors. After using several remedies, tried the bromide of potash in

seventy grain doses, every four hours. After a day or two, discontinued it, as it did not seem to calm the patient or procure sleep.

Dr. BECKETT, in a similar case reported by Dr. Babcock, had found the bromide to procure sleep in a few hours.

Dr. T. HUN had used it in simple nervous cases with good effect. He was informed by Dr. Gray, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, that he used it with excellent effect in acute mania, in doses of eighty grains four times per day.

Dr. VAN DERVEER, in a case of delirium tremens, in which the patient was wild, and attempted suicide, after giving other remedies, he administered the bromide with the best results.

Dr. ALEXANDER had found it of service in chronic orchitis.

Dr. BECKETT reported a case of poisoning by oil of bitter almonds. A child, six years old, had been conghing for several days. The mother of the child met Dr. B. and told him she thought the child had whooping cough, and asked if oil of almonds (which had been recommended by a woman) would not be good for it. Dr. B. said no, and gave her a prescription for the cough. Not long after this interview, the father came home, bringing with him a bottle of essential oil of bitter almonds, of which half a teaspoonful was at once administered. The child immediately went into spasms, and in a very short time sank into a comatose condition. Dr. B. arrived fifteen minutes after the poison was given; found the child cold, with feeble pulse, and in a coma. Within seven minutes from the time he saw her she was dead. No post-mortem. The oil was sold by a druggist's clerk who did not know that it was poisonous. This oil, which now sells in market for $1.50 per ounce, was sold to the father for twenty-five cents for two ounces. The apothecary, himself, is an intelligent man, and would not have committed the mistake.

Dr. BABCOCK spoke at some length against the careless-

ness of druggists, and thought physicians would be obliged to keep their own drugs.

Dr. Mead reported a very interesting case of spontaneous cure of ovarian tumor. The tumor existed in the abdomen of a widow lady, twenty-eight years of age, and was regarded by Dr. March and other physicians as ovarian. The woman had the appearance of one in the seventh month of pregnancy. She declined submitting to ovariotomy. Eighteen months afterward the doctor saw her and inquired about the tumor. He was told that it had disappeared; that she began to have very large watery discharges from her bowels, and six months after his first visit having the passages four or five times a day. At the same time the tumor, which had reached such a size as to make her larger than a woman at full period of pregnancy, began gradually to diminish. On examination of the abdomen, there is no enlargement, but the lower part of the abdomen is harder than natural. The loose passages continue twice a day. The doctor thinks the sac adhered to the bowel; that ulceration occurred, and a false passage was made through which the contents of the sac is voided.

Dr. Stevens reported a case of locomotor ataxy, in which nearly every symptom ever found in that rare and curious disease existed.

Dr. Devol reported an interesting case of paraplegia, occuring in a lady forty years old. The disease was at first very obscure and simulated rheumatism, and then periostitis at length showed itself as complete paralysis of the lower extremities.

Dr. Babcock offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby acknowledged and tendered to the governors of the Albany City Hospital, for their kindness in providing a pleasant and commodious room for the meeting of this body, and while we cheerfully avail ourselves of this privilege, we shall, by our regular attendance upon the stated meetings, manifest to them that we do not lightly prize the favor bestowed.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the governors of the hospital.

Adjourned. Geo. T. Stevens, *Secretary*.

MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *October* 13, 1868.

The Society met at the City Hospital.

Dr. R. H. SABIN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, J. S. BAILEY, CASE, DEVOL, EDMESTON, FOWLER, HEUSTED, E. R. HUN, THOS. HUN, LANSING, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, H. MARCH, A. MARCH, MEAD, J. W. MOORE, NORTHROP, ROBERTSON, SABIN, STEVENS, B. P. STAATS, VAN DERVEER, C. E. WHITBECK, WILSON.

Also, Dr. Danforth, of Middleburgh; Dr. Davis, of Lansingburgh, and the resident physicians of the hospital.

Dr. BABCOCK said, that as he had at the last meeting reported a case of delirium tremens, in which bromide of potassium had been used successfully, he wished now to say that he had since used the medicine in a similar case in which it had utterly failed. Sleep was produced by morphine.

Dr. ROBERTSON read a paper on injury of the eye, followed by staphyloma. The injury was caused by a piece of wood striking the eye; violent inflammation followed, succeeded by staphyloma. After much suffering the patient called Dr. R., who advised enucleation of eye-ball. This advice was not accepted. Several weeks passed, when the eye burst; union, however, took place, and the eye again filled. Dr. R. was again called with the attending physician; found the patient suffering from what was regarded typhoid fever, but what Dr. R. considered as the result of irritability from nervous reflex action. He again advised extirpation of the staphyloma. The advice was now accepted, and the operation performed by Critchett's method, and the patient made a rapid recovery. Dr. R. made some remarks regarding reflex nervous action from injury to the eye.

Dr. ARMSBY brought before the Society a young man

from Fort Plain, N. Y., who is now under treatment in the hospital for loss of vision in the left eye; complete atresia iridis exists in the right posterior synechia, combined with anterior capsular cataract. This condition is the result of an injury years since by a penknife.

Dr. Mead reported a case of injury of the eye: A man returned home at night drunk, struck his wife with the handle of an umbrella; the blow fell upon the orbit, making a clean cut above and below. When the Doctor first saw the case some hours afterwards, the parts surrounding the eye were so much swollen that he could not open the lids. In a day or two, when he was enabled to do so, he found a clean cut through the cornea, and extending through a considerable portion of the sclera. How this cut could have been made by the single blow which wounded the orbit, the Doctor could not explain. The wound healed without the loss of the vitreous body.

Dr. Armsby presented, as a gift to the Society, a very beautiful wax model of amputation of the foot, and incomplete amputation of the thigh *in utero*. The bones also accompany the model.

Dr. Andrew Wilson exhibited a very large fibrous polypus which he had taken from the uterus of one of his patients. He had ligated the pedicle, which was about three-fourths of an inch in diameter and very firm, and then removed the tumor with the knife. Patient had been conscious of the growth for three years—had not suffered much from uterine hemorrhage.

Dr. A. March reported the history of the case of suicide which recently occurred at the Exchange Hotel, and exhibited a portion of the bones of the skull. The body of this young man was brought to the hospital, and a post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Armsby. It was found that death was produced by a pistol ball; that the muzzle of the pistol had been introduced into the ear; the ball had penetrated the petrous portion of the temporal bone, cutting off the external carotid in its course.

The ball had not entered the brain. The man died of hemorrhage from the carotid.

Dr. March also reported a case of death from fracture of the skull. The Doctor called upon Dr. Armsby to relate the history of the case before death.

Dr. ARMSBY said that, about ten days since, a young man, a driver, while scuffling with another driver, in the stable, fell, and was trampled upon by a large horse. The bones about the orbit were badly fractured. The plate of the frontal bone, over the frontal sinus, was depressed, and other portions of bone were loose. Dr. A. removed two considerable pieces of bone with forceps. No untoward symptoms until about a week after the injury, when erysipelas set in, stupor soon followed, and he died to-day.

Dr. MARCH reported post-mortem appearances. On removing the calvarum, a gill or more of serum was found, which seemed to have been lodged in the depression over the anterior lobe of the cerebrum; some pus was also found in the depression. The stupor and symptoms of depression seem to have been caused by the pressure of serum outside the dura-mater. On removing the dura-mater, pus was found beneath, extending down to the orbit and in the orbit. The orbital plate was badly broken, as was also the molar bone. Pus was found in the temporal fossa.

Dr. E. R. HUN exhibited a specimen of cystic disease of the ovary.

Dr. DEVOL had brought the uterus of a cow, from which a fœtus of three months had been removed.

Dr. ARMSBY demonstrated the peculiarities of the specimen.

Adjourned. GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *October* 27, 1868.

The Society met at the City Hospital.

Dr. Sabin, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, Babcock, Boulware, Case, Devol, Fowler, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Thos. Hun, C. D. Mosher, Mead, Northrop, Quackenbush, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Van Derveer, Whitbeck.

Dr. Mead reported a case of calcification of the radial arteries, with pathological specimen. Calcification of the radial arteries was discovered during life to extend through their whole length. The subject died of consumption. He was prematurely old and broken down. It was impossible to state to what extent the calcification existed in other arteries, as no dissection was allowed in the case, further than the removal of a single radial artery.

Dr. Mead spoke of the nature and causes of calcification of arteries.

Dr. Devol desired to learn the opinion of members of the Society regarding the action of ergot, in originating labor pains.

Several members expressed the opinion that its action was not to be depended upon.

Dr. Devol then related a case of abortion at three months, which occurred three weeks since. The fœtus came away but the placenta remained behind. He had made several ineffectual efforts to remove it, without success; had given ergot, and found that the only effect was irritation of the stomach and spasms. He wished to know what was to be done.

Dr. Quackenbush thought the case should be left to itself. The uterus would at length reject any foreign substance. Usually such a placenta might remain three or four weeks, with no injury or inconvenience to the woman. He spoke of several cases of this kind.

Dr. WHITBECK also mentioned cases where the placenta of a three months' fœtus had remained three or four weeks with no ill results.

Dr. ROBERTSON read a paper on the case which Dr. Armsby had exhibited to the Society at the last meeting. He also reported two cases of iritis, illustrating the result of appropriate treatment. Dr. Robertson also exhibited a fragment of iron three-fourths of an inch long, which he had extracted from between the conjunctiva and sclerotic of a man. The fragment remained imbedded a fortnight, without causing pain.

Dr. STEVENS presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the code of by-laws of this Society, and that the committee be instructed to report at the annual meeting in November next.

Committee: Drs. Stevens, Boulware and Quackenbush.

Adjourned. GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 10, 1868.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, November 10th, 1868.

Dr. SABIN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. H. ARMSBY, ALLEN. BABCOCK, BIGELOW, BENDELL, BOULWARE, W. H. BAILEY, J. S. BAILEY, BULLOCK, BECKETT, CASE, J. F. CROUNSE, CRAIG, DEVOL, DUNKELMEYER, EDMESTON, FERGUSON, FREEMAN, FOWLER, GREGORY, HEUSTED, HASKINS, E. R. HUN, THOMAS HUN, JOHNSON, LANSING, LAMB, LEWI, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, MCMURDY, H. G. MCNAUGHTON, J. MCNAUGHTON, J. W. MOORE, LEVI MOORE, H. MARCH, A. MARCH, MYERS, MURPHY, MCDONOUGH, NORTHROP, NEWCOMB, C. B. O'LEARY, POMFRET, PORTER, PARMELE, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, B. P. STAATS, C. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS,

Shiland, Sabin, Stevens, Steenbergh, Travers, Van Olinda, Van Derveer, Vanderpoel, Wilson, C. E. Whitbeck, J. P. Whitbeck, Winne, Wands and Wasserbach.

Minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The Vice-President, Dr. Babcock, said that he was sick at the time of the semi-annual meeting, which was the reason for his failure to deliver the semi-annual address.

The Censors reported that they had examined the credentials of the following gentlemen, and found them correct, viz.: Drs. L. M. Dunkelmeyer, A. McDonough, R. D. Travers and John Thompson.

These gentlemen were then elected members of the Society.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Alden March: Dr. John Babcock, of Bethlehem.

By Dr. W. H. Bailey: Drs. Dedrick, and Becker, of New Salem; Dr. Dean, of Guilderland Center.

By Dr. Rossman: Dr. Edward Haynes, of Albany.

Referred to Censors.

The President then delivered an interesting address on "Habits in Medicine."

Dr. Quackenbush moved the thanks of the Society for the interesting and instructive address.

Dr. Boulware offered the following:

Resolved, That the dues of members who are four or more years in arrears to the Society be remitted, and that such members, on paying the annual dues for the current year, be reinstated to full membership.

Carried.

Dr. B. P. Staats offered the following:

Whereas, It is a common practice of many druggists in this city to repeat the prescriptions sent to them by physicians for the use of their patients without the written order for such repetitions, and inasmuch as such practice may prove very injurious to the patient, and is manifestly unjust to the physicians, who are the rightful owners of such prescriptions; therefore,

Resolved, That we will not patronize any druggist who indulges in such practice.

Laid over.

Dr. DEVOL offered the following:

Resolved, That hereafter it shall be considered unprofessional for candidates for office in this Society to solicit votes for their own election.

Carried.

Dr. MEAD moved that the four delegates to the State Medical Society, to be elected to-day, each receive certificates for four years. Carried.

The Treasurer, Dr. BECKETT, read his annual report, which was accepted.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. BOULWARE moved that the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer be voted for at a single ballot. Carried.

Drs. Craig and Boulware were appointed tellers. Seventy ballots were cast, and the following gentlemen declared elected:

Dr. James L. Babcock, *President.*

Dr. J. W. Moore, *Vice-President.*

Dr. Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

Dr. Andrew Wilson, *Treasurer.*

Drs. C. E. Whitbeck and C. P. Staats were appointed tellers on the ballot for *Delegates to the State Medical Society.*

The following were elected: Drs. James S. Bailey, John P. Whitbeck, Edward H. Hun and Joseph Lewi.

The President was authorized to cast one vote for *Delegates to American Medical Association*, and the following gentlemen were declared elected: Drs. Alden March, James McNaughton, John F. Crounse, Daniel Wasserbach.

The following were elected *Censors:* Drs. Quackenbush, Devol, Ferguson, Craig and Northrop.

The Committee to report revisions for by-laws, made a report; which was accepted, and the committee continued.

The Society then adjourned.

GEO. T. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *November* 24, 1868.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, November 24th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. J. L. Babcock, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Babcock, Boulware, Case, Craig, Devol, Dunkelmeyer, Edmeston, Freeman, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Lansing, L. Moore, A. March, H. March, Mead, C. D. Mosher, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Van Derveer, Wasserbach, Wilson, C. E. Whitbeck.

Also, Dr. Kempster, of Utica, and Rev. Mr. Chase, of Saratoga Springs.

The minutes of the last stated meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Chas. Devol reported ten cases of cancer.

Case I.—*Cancer of uterus, bladder and rectum.* The patient, Mrs C——, aged fifty-five years, was a mother of a large family; was first seen by the Doctor two years prior to her decease. The os uteri was then lobulated and scirrhus. The diagnosis was cancer, the prognosis certain death; it being only a question of time. The treatment was palliative and supporting. As is usual in such cases, the patient had had too many doctors, and had taken too much medicine.

There had been various operations, excisions and cauterizations. Her treatment by quacks and regulars, with a view to cure, were simply detrimental. The preparation (No. 1) which was exhibited, shows that the *os* and *crevix uteri* were entirely removed by ulceration, the scalpel and caustics. A large opening is apparent between the uterus and bladder; the urine escaped through the vagina, and not through the urethra. This condition of things was a

serious complication in the case. Disinfectants were freely used in the sick room as well as by injection and externally. Tonics and nutritious diet were freely used.

CASE II.—*Cancer of the stomach.* Mr. M., aged sixty-five, over medium size. This case was variously diagnosed and treated as dyspepsia and liver complaint. In this case too many physicians were employed, and too much medicine administered. The disease was accompanied with the usual symptoms, nausea and vomiting, pain and a cahectic or cadaverous appearance, and extreme emaciation from actual starvation. The stomach could not receive more than two or three ounces, and would not retain and could not digest even that. The intestines were half collapsed. All the abdominal viscera were deranged and diseased. A preparation of this case (No. 2) was exhibited.

CASE III.—*Cancer of the stomach.* Mr. L.; the patient was under the doctor's treatment six months, when he died. He had usually enjoyed good health, excepting occasional attacks, which were supposed to be dyspepsia. When first called in, the patient had severe gastralgia, and a spasmodic cough and vomiting. He had but little appetite or thirst. He digested and assimilated food very sparingly, hence he became gradually and extremely emaciated. His extremities became œdematous. He had hydrothorax. Dr. Alden March performed paracentesis thoracis. About ten pounds of serum was drawn off; his breathing was decidedly improved; the operation doubtless prolonged his life. Two dense tumors were found; one in the right hypogastric and the other in the left gastric region. These were enlarged perceptibly during the whole term of his sickness. Some differences of opinion were entertained concerning the nature of the tumors, until post-mortem dissection revealed a general carcinomatous degeneration of the abdominal viscera generally. A scirrhus growth from the inner surface of the stomach completely filling the entire cavity and constituted the tumor on the left side. During his sickness the sufferer

was hopeful, patient and reliable. He had no proclivity to quackery or loss of confidence in his medical attendants. He was willing to die, and was sorry that he had been tapped, for he said it prolonged his life and sufferings. In this case also no medical or surgical treatment had any curative effect.

Case IV.—*Cancer of the uterus, rectum and bladder.* Miss J., aged twenty-five years. Symptoms, severe pain in the pelvic viscera and hypogastrium. Passages of urine frequent and scanty. Rectum constricted almost to occlusion. No instrument larger than a common catheter would pass the stricture, consequently the fæces and sanious discharges from the ulcerated surfaces above were retained until they were decomposed and liquified, when they escaped involuntarily, and constantly making the most loathsome case possible.

Case V.—*Cancer of the rectum.* A lady living in Lansingburgh.

Case VI.—*Cancer of the rectum.* Rev. Tobias Spicer, of Lansingburgh, suffered and died with symptoms resembling those of the other case.

Dr. Devol then remarked: I have treated five other cases of cancer so similar to the cases just mentioned, that particular descriptions are unnecessary. On the subject of cancer, he said: I have had all the experience I desire. As a class of patients, they vacillate towards empirics, cancer doctors, Indian doctors, etc. I have been young, and am now old, but I have never known a cancer cured by arsenical plasters, the scalpel, or otherwise. I do not believe a genuine cancer was ever cured since the world stood. I have never known any good to come from doctoring cancers. To medicate the patient on general principles; to promote the secretions and general health and allay pain, is all very well.

Dr. Devol also exhibited a preparation (No. 3) of a diseased kidney. This presented on the surface near the lower end, and within the peritoneal surface, a sac of trans-

parent fluid, about the size of a hen's egg. The other kidney, the Doctor stated, was atrophied and degenerated, so that for months probably it had not performed its functions. The peritoneum generally, and all the abdominal viscera, were thickly studded with tubercles.

No. IV.—*A tubercular pancreas*, from the same subject as No. III.

No. V.—*Biliary calculi*, from the same subject as Nos. III and IV. The subject, a man, had been almost fatally injured by a railway collision ten years before he died. His ribs were broken, and his liver severely injured. He had several attacks of acute icterus, with terrible pain, eructations and vomiting. The railroad accident probably induced the formation of the gall stones. The gall stones induced the attacks of icterus, and violent local inflammation in the liver, the gall bladder and the duodenum, obstruction of the gall duct, and death.

No. VI.—Unknown object from the intestines. Dr. Devol said: I do not know what it is. I have shown it to a number of medical gentlemen, who say they never saw anything like it. It is not a worm or any parasite. It is not the vermiform appendix of the caput coli.

Nos. VII, VIII and IX.—*Tape worms.* They were all destroyed by the following prescription: Etherial extract of male fern, two scruples; sugar, half-an-ounce, to be taken at bed-time. The following mixture to be taken next morning: Pomegranate root bark, three drachms; water, one quart boiled down to twelve ounces, then infuse in it kousso half-an-ounce; let it stand half-an-hour, strain, and dissolve in it sugar, three ounces. Give a small tea cup full every hour till the worm passes.

No. X.—Bill Fish (gar pike), and aorta of a bullock.

Dr. Devol then said:

Mr. President—Believing, as I do, that these preparations which I have exhibited are more valuable to the Society than they are to me, and that every lover of science should contribute to its advancement, by communicating

information and furnishing specimens for safe keeping and the use of teachers and students of science, I have the honor and pleasure to present to the Medical Society of the County of Albany, through you, their presiding officer, these pathological specimens, with my best wishes for the prosperity and success of the Society for all time to come. I hope that this may not be the last contribution I may make to the museum of this Medical Society.

The following is a list of the pathological preparations presented by Dr. Devol:

No. I. Cancer of Uterus, Bladder and Rectum.
No. II. Cancer of the Stomach.
No. III. A disease of Kidney.
No. IV. A Tubercular Pancreas.
No. V. Biliary Calculi.
No. VI. Unknown Substance from Intestine.
Nos. VII, VIII and IX. Tape Worms.
No. X. Bill Fish (Gar Pike) and Aorta of a Bullock.

Dr. Devol continued:

Mr. President—As we have had no ovation or demonstration worthy of your accession to the chair of office, allow me to assure you of our high appreciation of your office and yourself, and to congratulate you as the presiding officer of a large, learned, and influential Society, which has too much love of science, and too much self-respect to be long without a large and valuable museum of pathological specimens, second to none in the State, as the Society itself is second to none.

The President, Dr. Babcock, in the name of the Society, thanked Dr. Devol for his interesting and valuable contributions, and trusted that his example would be followed by others, and that a museum worthy of the Albany County Medical Society would finally be established. He expressed his gratification at the kind and friendly words addressed to him personally, and stated that it would be not only his duty, but also his greatest pleasure to do his utmost, as

the presiding officer of the Society, to promote its best interests.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH moved, and Dr. E. R. Hun seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. Devol for his valuable collection of pathological specimens.

Carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER asked Dr. Devol whether he had ever succeeded in expelling tape worm, if pieces had not already passed.

Dr. DEVOL replied that he did not know, as he was not in the habit of administering any medicine for tape worm until parts were passed, as he considered that the only reliable indication of its presence.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH'S opinion was then asked as to the value of surgical operations in cancer. He was of the opinion that a greater portion of cases left to nature, or treated by quack remedies, died at an earlier period than those operated upon. He observed that, no matter how small the diseased mass, it was always advisable to remove the whole breast. Authorities stated, he remarked, that patients live longer with than without operations.

Dr. March then alluded to the fact that cliniques were held at the College and Hospital, Saturday, and stated that the members of the Society would be always welcome.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER reported a case of non-secretion of milk after confinement. The woman was aged twenty-five years; the breasts were well formed. For twenty-four hours (between the fourth and sixth days), a secretion of something like poor milk occurred; the milk tube could be distinctly felt; the labor was easy, and there were no untoward symptoms. There was a similar absence of milk after confinement, two years before.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH then addressed the Society on the subject of "Fibrous Tumors." Fibrous tumors, he said, were most common in fibrous tissues, as the uterus, etc. They also occurred in the nerves, both in the trunks and

on the extremity of amputated limbs, as well as in ligamentous tissue, as in the case presently to be described.

In regard to their form, he said they were usually spherical or ovate; they had a smoother or superficially lobed surface. They were very commonly very firm, and almost as incompressible as hard cancers, but possess some elasticity. In the specimens exhibited, bundles of white fibrous tissue were plainly apparent. In deep-seated fibrous tumors, the specimens present strong white bands intersecting a grayish or dull white basis substance. Under the microscope they show a fibrous structure. Both the superficial and deep-seated varieties yield gelatine on boiling. Several interesting cases of deep-seated fibrous tumors were read from Paget's surgical pathology. Recurring fibrous and fibro-nucleated tumors resemble the simple fibrous tumors in their general aspect; their component structures resemble those that are rudimental of the fibrous tissue. Dr. March said that he considered the chief difference between them consisted in the proneness of this latter to reproduction after removal. The specimen presented occurred in a gentleman named Hawley, aged fifty years; health good, light complexion and hair, eyes blue. At the time of his first visit to Dr. March, examination revealed a tumor in the right groin, a little above Poupart's ligament, occupying a space midway between the linea alba and the anterior superior spinous process. The tumor was hard and projected, between one and two inches above the general surface. D. March diagnosed it as a fibroid or fibro-cartilaginous tumor, and supposed that it was attached to the walls of the abdomen. Mr. Hawley discovered the tumor in April last, when it was of the size of a hickory nut. The patient was subsequently examined by Dr. Willard Parker, of New York, who expressed his opinion of the case in a letter to Dr. March, which was read by the latter to the Society. The operation was commenced by a semi-lunar incision inside of the anterior, superior and inferior spinous pro-

cess of the ilium. Fibers of the internal oblique muscles were divided, the tendon of this muscle extending over the tumor; when the tendon was lifted, portions of the tumor were found adhering to it. By using the fingers, part of the tumor was enucleated, cut off and removed. The tumor was found attached to the tendons of the external and internal oblique muscles, and to the external pillar of the external abdominal ring. After the operation anodynes were given; the pulse was small and frequent; the abdomen was not tympanitic; after twenty-four hours there was œdema of the scrotum, and some evidences of mortification appeared. The patient died seventy hours after the operation. Dr. March then spoke of tumors of the nerves; these, he stated, were fibro-cartilaginous, and composed of elementary plastic matter. They may occur on the continuous trunk of nerves, or on the divided extremities of nerves after amputation. They are commonly oval or globular in shape, and vary in size from the end of a finger to a small hen's egg. In an amputated limb several nerves may be involved in the cicatrix, and tumors may form on each of them. Thus, on the stump, after amputation of the forearm, we may have tumors on the median, radial and ulnar nerves; the last nerves seems to be peculiarly liable to this disease. As to the cause of these tumors, they seem to arise by the pressure and irritation of the end of the bone with which they are in contact, or from the tension of the cicatrix with which the nerves affected are involved. They are generally painful, and produce involuntary spasms of the muscles of the stump. When the tumor is single, and easy accessible, it may be removed alone. When they are numerous, and more or less connected with the bone, reamputation is the only advisable course to be pursued. A consideration of these facts leads to the conclusion that, in amputation, it is advisable to divide the nerves at a point higher up than the muscles and bone, that the nerves may not be implicated in the cicatrix.

Dr. March then exhibited a preparation, and said: The man from whom this was taken is sixty-five years of age. He is a hearty, fine looking Irishman. He interfered in a quarrel between two men, and had one of his fingers bitten. Mortification set in, and the part was amputated by Sir William Crampton, of Dublin. After a time there was intense pain and spasmodic twitching of the muscles; it was a genuine case of neuroma. The discomfort was so great that reamputation was finally resorted to, and the arm removed about two inches above the elbow-joint. The specimen exhibited had tumors of the nerves in the cicatrix, and adhered to the end of the amputated bone. Dr. March continued: In regard to such cases, a permanent cure can usually be effected only by dividing the nerves implicated so high up as to prevent their extremities coming in contact with the end of the bone, and being involved in the process of cicatrization, or by reamputation, as in the present case.

Dr. A. A. Edmeston remarked, that Lieut. Whitney, of the —— regiment, had an arm amputated in consequence of a wound. He apparently recovered perfectly, but a year after the operation he suffered intense pain in the arm; his general health was affected, and a small tumor appeared in the cicatrix. He had the nerve divided high up, when the unfavorable symptoms disappeared.

Dr. Alden March, at the suggestion of Dr. J. H. Armsby, related the case of a young woman, healthy and robust, who was bled. Soon after the operation (1844) clonic spasms occurred; the limb was drawn up; the fingers of the hand were tightly clenched; as this condition of things was permanent, the woman was disabled for any service. The trouble, Dr. March said, probably arose from the wounding of a nerve with the lancet in the act of bleeding. The nerve was then divided above the cicatrix, when the arm straightened nearly, but not quite out, and it was deemed advisable to operate a second time to effect a perfect cure. The cicatrix was then completely removed,

but unfortunately the woman was brought to the same condition as before. She was operated upon for the third time, when relief was afforded, but as she soon left the city, nothing is known of her subsequent history.

Dr. FREEMAN moved, and Dr. C. D. Mosher seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Alden March, for his instructive and interesting address on fibrous tumors.

Carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER then remarked on the importance of the proposed revision of the by-laws, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Quackenbush:

Resolved, That two members be added to the committee to revise the by-laws of the Society, making the total number of members on the committee five.

Carried.

The President appointed Drs. C. D. Mosher and Chas. H. Porter as additional members of the committee.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER then stated that it was desirable to learn, so far as practicable, the views of all the members of the Society on any proposed amendment to the by-laws, which was practically impossible if the subject was presented only at the annual meeting. He would propose that at the stated meetings the members offer suggestions in writing, which, with the amendments presented by the committee could then be fully and freely discussed.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH then made some remarks on the subject of abortions. He said that many causes had been ascribed for those abortions which arise without any apparent cause, or that occur habitually. From his own observation and experience, he was inclined to believe that in many cases where abortion occurs in the earlier months of pregnancy, it was owing to the mother being affected with Bright's disease of the kidneys. A number of cases were mentioned by him which, in his opinion, favored this view. He hoped that the members of the Society would observe carefully, and report such cases as fell under their

observation, that it might be ascertained whether the cause he had suggested was the true one.

Dr. J. V. Lansing moved, and Dr. C. D. Mosher seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, That Dr. Quackenbush be invited by the Society to present at the next meeting his views on the subject of uremic poisoning, causing abortion.'

Carried.

The Society then adjourned.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *December 8th*, 1868.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, Dec. 8th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. J. L. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Wm. H. Bailey, Case, Craig, Devol, Fonda, Freeman, Haskins, Heusted, E. R. Hun, A. March, Mead, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Porter, Quackenbush, Sabin, Stevens, J. P. Whitbeck.

Also, Dr. A. Dedrick.

While the minutes of the last stated meeting were being read, Dr. Alden March made a few remarks in relation to the length of the minutes, and the space of time occupied in reading them, and offered a resolution that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with at this time on account of their length, or that only the titles of the papers presented at the last meeting be read, which resolution, on amendment of Dr. Quackenbush, was modified, so that in future the Secretary was requested to refer in the minutes to the subject offered and discussed, but that the remarks of members be not so fully recorded, as the reading of such would consume too much of the time of the Society.

Carried.

The reading of the minutes was then concluded, and, on motion, they were approved.

Dr. WM. H. BAILEY then reported a case of scirrhus of the bladder and kidneys.

He said: During the early part of October last, Mr. C., a healthy, robust looking gentleman, 66 years of age, consulted him for incontinence of urine. His habits, for the last fifteen years, had been strictly temperate; he had no pain; his appetite was good, and he was as vigorous as he had been for several years. Believing the trouble had its origin in a loss of tone of the muscles, fluid extract of ergot was given him. In a few days he reported great improvement. When next seen, in the latter part of October, he was found suffering from occasional attacks of severe pain, nausea and vomiting, and a desire to urinate frequently. The urine was found to contain small quantities of blood. Warm fomentations, anodynes and diuretics, followed by a tonic, gave him great relief. On the morning of the 17th of November, the doctor was sent for, and found the patient in great pain. He had tenderness over the bowels, nausea and vomiting. There was complete retention of urine, yet constant desire to urinate. At each effort he passed a few drops of blood. A catheter was introduced, but no urine passed. The above symptoms continued about three days, when he died. There was no coma or other symptoms of uremic poisoning. An autopsy was made about thirteen hours after death. The kidneys were found normal in size, but pale in color. There were small accumulations of urine in the pelvis and ureters. The bladder contained a small blood clot, but no urine. Its cavity was much contracted, its walls greatly thickened, and its lining membrane raised in warty excrescences. Near the neck was a fungus growth, to which the blood clot was attached. A microscopic examination showed that the kidneys and bladder were infiltrated with cancer cells. The points of peculiar interest in this case are, the entire freedom from any symptoms that would cause a suspicion of any disease

in the affected organs, until within a short period of its fatal termination, and that the bladder and kidneys should be so extensively diseased while the adjacent parts were healthy.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey also reported a case of variola with hemorrhage, causing death.

The Doctor said that, in the early part of November, he was called to see a girl, aged five years. The family had lost three of their number in early childhood from meningeal inflammation. As the symptoms of the patient were decidedly cerebral, the Doctor expressed serious apprehensions for the future. Cold was applied to the head, and counter-irritation to the spine. The feet were bathed in hot water, and alterative doses of calomel, with Dover powders, were given. At two o'clock the next morning, the patient was found bleeding profusely from the nose. The hemorrhage was soon arrested, but she sank and died about four hours after. The girl had been well to within about forty-eight hours of her death. She had always been subject to the "nose bleed" upon the slightest provocation. After death the surface was soft, smooth and free from any hemorrhagic appearance. Two days after, an elder sister and an infant brother were broken out with variola. These three had never been vaccinated, but an elder sister, who had been vaccinated in her infancy, had been quite sick about two weeks before from a cold, as they thought, but with this peculiarity, it was followed by a few pustules scattered over the entire person. This must have been *varioloid*, and the little patient, therefore, had *congested small pox*, although it did not make its appearance.

In accordance with a resolution offered by Dr. Lansing at the last meeting,

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush then read a paper on "Albuminuria as a Cause of Abortion and Premature Delivery." The Doctor commenced by saying, that there were three forms of Bright's disease of the kidneys. The inflammatory, the waxy or amyloid, and the cirrhotic forms. The

most common was the inflammatory form, and the symptoms connected with this form, which deserve especial notice, were the condition of the urine, the dropsy and the affections of the nervous system. After attending to the changes in the urine, and the supposed cause of the dropsy and the nervous symptoms, he spoke of the causes of this form of Bright's disease, which were: 1st. Exposure to wet or cold. 2d. The presence of malarial poison in the blood. 3d. Inflammation of important organs, especially the lungs; and 4th and lastly, pregnancy.

He then quoted from different authors, showing that Bright's disease was caused by pregnancy, which disease manifested itself in successive pregnancies, and eventually became chronic and permanent. He spoke of the manner in which he thought the death of the early fœtus was produced, which death caused the abortion and premature delivery, thus deducing from such reasons and from causes which had fallen under his notice, that Bright's disease, in its earliest manifestation, was a cause of abortion which, he thought, had been much overlooked, and to which he would invite the attention and examination of the members of the Society.

After the discussion upon the subject of the above paper, the following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Quackenbush for his interesting paper and remarks.

Carried.

Dr. C. DEVOL then read a paper entitled "Medical Enigmas," after which he presented to the Society a jar of human teeth.

The following resolution was then moved and seconded:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Devol, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of his paper for the Society.

Dr. O. C. ALEXANDER offered, and Dr. W. H. Craig seconded a resolution that the Society hereafter meet on Monday night instead of Tuesday night, as at present.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig moved that the resolution be laid on the table. Carried.

The Society then adjourned.

Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *January* 5, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, January 5th, 1869, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. James L. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. J. H. Armsby, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Wm. H. Bailey, Craig, Devol, J. M. Davis, Edmeston, Thomas Hun, E. R. Hun, Lansing, A. March, H. March, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Newcomb, Northrop, Stevens, Wilson and Van Derveer.

Also, by invitation, Drs. Hough, Calhoun and Scattergood.

In the absence of Dr. Porter, Dr. A. Van Derveer was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

The minutes of the last stated meeting were read and approved.

Dr. C. D. Mosher offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That there be appointed, by the President, a committee of three, of which Dr. Alden March shall be chairman, to determine who were elected Delegates to the State Medical Society, at the last annual meeting.

The resolution was adopted; and the President appointed Drs. A. March, W. H. Craig and A. Wilson as members of said committee.

Dr. A. Van Derveer reported a case of gunshot wound of femur, followed by necrosis. The patient had been a policeman in this city, and died December 14th, 1868, aged thirty-two years. His health during life had been good, and habits regular. He enlisted in Company A, Forty-

fourth N. Y. Vols., September, 1861; was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6th, 1864, in lower third, left thigh. He was transferred to several hospitals, and finally reached Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, August 1st. About this time the thigh began to pain him severely, and acute inflammation was suddenly developed. On August 16, the surgeons made a free incision in the thigh, and attempted to find the ball. They afterward told him that the ball was embedded in the bone, and could not be removed. His condition was very low after the operation, but he finally recovered; and when he returned to Albany, November 1st, the wound had nearly healed. He was appointed a member of the police force April 7, 1865. Did duty up to the evening of October 25th, 1868, when, after previous severe exposure, he was suddenly seized with acute pain in the region of the abdomen. The pain was violent and deep seated; swelling of the soft parts; diffuse œdematous; excessive heat of surface, followed by high sympathetic fever with delirium. Morphine was given freely to quiet pain and cause sleep. November 8, pus was first discovered, and a slight incision made in thigh, from which a free discharge followed. Dr. V. was first called to see him December 5th, and found him suffering fearfully with pain in knee-joint; thigh and leg filled with pus; tongue dry and red; pulse from 120 to 130; perspiration free at times; bowels constipated; vomited freely, and stomach retained but little of his nourishment, tonics or stimulants. December 7th, while patient was under influence of ether, an examination developed complete disorganization of knee-joint, with extensive disease in every direction. December 9th, Dr. A. March was called in consultation, and decides the only hope for patient to be amputation of the thigh, but in view of his extremely low condition, he thought the operation useless. The post-mortem was held December 14th, in the presence of Drs. A. and H. March, Vanderpoel, Boulware and Fowler. The soft parts of the thigh and leg were found filled

with pus, the knee-joint opened and filled with a bloody sarinous matter.

Dr. A. March exhibited the specimen, which consisted of about six inches of the lower portion of the femur, together with the patella and heads of tibia and fibula. There was necrosis of the femur from the epiphysis up the middle third. The line of demarcation was well formed between the new and dead bone. On the inner portion there was a narrow line of sound periosteum and live bone. On the outer aspect of this dead bone there was an exostosis about the size and thickness of a two cent piece, which was believed to be the point where the ball had struck the bone. A careful search was made for the ball, but it could not be found. The medullary membrane was greatly diseased. The specimen exhibited extensive disease of the knee joint. The surface was roughened, and cartilages almost entirely destroyed. The semi-lunar ones seemed to be atrophied. The cartilages was peeled off from the patella, to the extent of an inch in breadth and one inch and a half in length. Dr. March believed the ball must have been a spent one, and was probably brought out of the wound by the patient's clothing, or had rebounded; had it been a ball at full force, it would have fractured the femur in many pieces, of which there was no evidence. He desired *first*, to call the attention of the Society to the clear, white appearance of the necrosed portion of the femur, showing that it had been entirely excluded from the air while diseased action was going on. Bone in which necrosis occurs, while exposed to the air, becomes very black.

Second—Where bone has once been the seat of diseased inflammatory action, and inflammation is developed again at a remote period, it is likely to result seriously, as in extensive disease. He cited the case of Dr. Towner, of Elmira, who was attacked with disease of the tibia and fibula at the age of twelve years. Under proper treatment he recovered, studied medicine, and practiced twenty years,

when inflammation attacked the bone a second time, establishing fistulous openings, and amputation became necessary. He also mentioned several other cases resulting similarly.

Third—We should be cautious as regards our diagnosis, and not mistake effect for causes as symptomatic for real fever. He had known a case of injury of knee-joint treated as a case of typhoid fever, patient taking tart. antimony, etc. Treatment was changed to the supporting kind, and patient recovered. In our treatment of inflammation of the periosteum and bone, we should open early and freely, the object being to let out the little pus that may have formed, and to arrest further destruction. It may be difficult at first to detect formation of pus, but it will early extend up and down the limb, and if the latter has once been the seat of inflammation, we must be particularly on the look-out for its return. If early opening does no good, we may, as a last resort, in most cases, amputate, with a fair chance for patient's recovery.

Dr. A. March next reported three cases of disease of the knee joint.

First case, that of Mr. A., a gold beater by trade, and had been a patient in the hospital. He was able to walk when he came in. Disease had existed for twelve years, fistulous openings connected with the knee joint. An effort at anchylosis was first attempted; this failing, amputation was performed. The Doctor hardly thought the amputation justifiable at the time, but was satisfied after examination of the joint. There were two points of dead bone, one in the head of the tibia, the other in condyle of femur, the former making an impression and wearing in upon the latter. The case proved that inflammation of the knee joint may become chronic, and not require immediate amputation.

Dr. Armsby had probed and found dead bone in the above case, some months before; has put off amputating

hoping anchylosis would take place. The patient was anxious for amputation. He made a good recovery.

Dr. March's second case was the result of a railroad accident. The soft parts, as large as the hand, covering the lower portion of femur, had been severely burned; sloughing followed, exposing the femur, also the head of the tibia, in a condition of necrosis. Inflammation extended into the knee joint, and amputation became necessary. Cartilages were thinned from diseased action. The patient, though apparently a healthy man, was in so low a condition that he did not recover. Died on the fourth or fifth day following amputation. This specimen was a good exhibition of diseased action from without, in, while in the case of G——, wound showed the progress of disease from within, out.

Dr. March's third specimen was from the limb of Dr. Pierce, who, while assistant surgeon in the early part of the war, was thrown from his horse, injuring knee joint severely.

In 1862, he was transferred to the U. S. Army Hospital, in this city. Could then walk about, using the limb quite freely. At the close of the war he located in Dutchess county, and did a fine practice up to the time of his coming here for treatment, September, 1868.

From the effects of hard work, his knee became worse, and Dr. M. advised him to enter the hospital for treatment. On examination, pus could be detected below the joint. There was a good deal of œdema of the whole limb. Pus had not formed external to the point, that is, the bursæ, but had escaped to the joint, when the opening found it. After opening, he seemed to improve; there was some motion of the joint, and we applied a starch bandage to the limb.

Treatment did not result favorably, and amputation became necessary. There was partial anchylosis of the joint. Portions of dead bone were found, about the same as in the first case presented.

The Doctor recovered, though having a severe time of it. The amputation was performed after his return home.

Remarks were made by members on the specimens presented by Dr. March.

Dr. ARMSBY spoke of a case that had been brought to the hospital, in which there was found to be perforation of the middle third of the femur, caused by a piece of shell. There was no fracture. He could pass a probe entirely through the bone from front to rear. Wound healed kindly and a good result followed. Piece of shell was removed from the posterior part of the thigh.

Dr. Armsby introduced to the Society, Dr. Calhoun, of Delhi, Delaware county.

Dr. JAMES S. BAILEY presented, in behalf of Dr. A. B. Heusted, a specimen of sweet quinine, also one of svapnia, or purified opium.

Dr. DEVOL spoke of a case of protracted pregnancy, the time being ten months, and the child weighing 12½ lbs.

Question: Whether the mother had not made a mistake in her reckoning?

Dr. CALHOUN gave the history of a case of pregnancy, in which the membranes ruptured at six months. No pains followed. The child's head was found presenting naturally. The discharge of waters continued for nine weeks, at the rate of a pint in twenty four hours. At this time the pains came on, and she was delivered of a living child, which lived but twenty-four hours.

At no time did the discharge color her clothes. The os was sufficiently dilated for him to introduce his finger any time during the nine weeks. He thought it a case of separation of the membranes from the uterus.

Dr. ARMSBY thought it a rupture of the outer membrane.

Dr. BABCOCK reported a case in which the waters broke at the end of the eighth month, while the lady was sitting in her chair. No pains followed, and pregnancy went on to full term, when labor was completed, all ending well.

Dr. Devol did not think the amniotic fluids essential to the growth of the child; merely thought it a protection to relieve jars, etc. He thought pregnancy would go on after membranes had been ruptured.

Dr. Wilson moved that Dr. Alexander's resolution, presented at the last meeting, be taken from the table and discussed. Carried.

After discussion by several members, it was moved and carried that the Society meet the second and fourth Monday evening of each month.

The Society then adjourned.

A. Van Derveer, *Secretary pro tem.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *January* 25, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, January 25, 1869, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. James L. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Babcock, James S. Bailey, Craig, Case, Edmeston, Freeman, Ferguson, Thos. Hun, E. R. Hun, Heusted, Lansing, Mead, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, A. March, Robertson, Stevens, Vanderpoel, Van Derveer, and Wilson.

By invitation, Drs. Losee and Benedict, and Medical Students Hailes and Burr.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Samuel H. Freeman then reported several cases of obstruction of Gall Duct:

Case I.—Patient of light complexion, spare in flesh, of good habits; symptoms were free vomiting, light colored fæcal evacuations, severe pain and tenderness over the region corresponding with the gall duct. In the treatment chloroform was given, and the nitro-muriatic acid bath used. Great relief followed when free bilious evacuations

were procured. In one of these attacks the patient died suddenly. Post-mortem revealed small concretions completely closing the duct.

CASE II.—Male, of generous habits; had had several attacks of colic within a few months, but which had readily yielded to treatment. When called to see him in his last attack, he was found suffering such severe pain, that chloroform and morphine seemed to do little good. He died suddenly, and the post-mortem developed rupture of the gall duct with about a dozen calculi in gall bladder.

CASE III.—Female, aged seventy, florid complexion, weighing 130 pounds, generally in good health; had suffered for some time from indigestion, for which she found great relief in the use of sub-nit. of bismuth.

Fluids were best retained by the stomach; no pain over the region of the duct.

At her death there was found cancer of the stomach, and in the gall bladder seventy-two calculi.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER reported a case of Trismus Nascentium. He had recently been called to assist a midwife in a protracted case of confinement. The patient was a strong, robust woman, and had been in labor four days, during which time she had lost a great quantity of blood. On examination he found the child's head presenting in a natural position. There was partial placenta-previa, a portion of the placenta being detached and resting between the os and child's head. Dr. M. turned the child and delivered; in doing so, he was compelled to use a great deal of force, and the child's legs showed considerable ecchymosis. The child was given a warm bath, marked benefit resulting. It nursed perfectly. The mother recovered slowly from the great loss of blood. On the eighth day the child showed symptoms of trismus opisthotonos, being well marked; spasms frequent, and increased in force; could introduce the little finger between its jaws; they never entirely closed. They were firmly fixed, and required force to part them beyond a certain point. The

cord had been off two or three days, and was perfectly healthy in appearance.

Treatment—consisted in warm baths, with cold to the head. The child died on the fifteenth day. The placenta was badly torn during delivery. The Doctor thought the child might have suffered from the four days' loss of blood; it might have favored tetanus.

Dr. James S. Bailey stated, that he had recently seen a case of trismus in a negro child. Dr. W. H. Bailey invited me to visit with him a well-developed male mulatto infant, which seemed in every respect healthy, until the fifth day, when its mother observed it was exceedingly nervous, starting at the least touch or noise; refused to nurse, and seemed drowsy. The next morning there were contortions of its mouth, with foamy mucus exuding. Upon examining its jaws, they were found to be locked. The spasms were aggravated by trying to nurse it. The symptoms were fully developed in the course of twenty-four hours. During the paroxysms there was extreme lividity of countenance, and it seemed as if the eyes would be forced from their sockets. The cord separated upon the seventh day. The umbilicus remained dry and inflamed, without suppuration. Its bowels were regular, and the stools were natural in appearance. Death took place upon the ninth day. No post-mortem was allowed. Dr. B. remarked he had seen this disease in a very fatal form while practicing in Alabama and Texas. He did not think hemorrhage a cause. Dr. Cartwright, formerly of New Orleans, thought it due among the negroes to the inhaling of smoke and vegetable miasm. Dr. Sims thought it was caused by displacement and dislocation of the bones of the occiput, producing pressure upon the medulla oblongata. Other physicians believed it due to a poisonous malaria existing in the mother's system, and treated their cases by giving the child one grain of calomel every morning for four or five days, and the mother five or six grains of quinine for the same length of time; the latter treatment the Doctor

thought was most rational. A great majority of his cases had occurred among the children of negroes who had been attended by midwives. The children were often allowed to remain in a very filthy condition, and the umbilicus was generally found very much inflamed or in a gangrenous condition. When the cord was properly cared for, he thought the disease seldom appeared. Negro children suffered mostly in the south, though he had seen it among the better class of whites. Had frequently seen the relaxed condition of the jaw when not in spasms, spoken of by Dr. Mosher; he thought death was generally caused by the spasmodic closing of the glottis. The disease is seldom witnessed in this climate. There was little to be done for trismoids, except to palliate; recovery seldom took place after the disease became well-established.

Dr. E. R. HUN reported a case of tubercular disease of the lungs and kidneys. F. T. H., clergyman, aged 35, married, and a family of three children. November 2d, 1868, complained of cough, and painful and frequent micturition. An examination revealed tubercular deposits, with softening under the right scapula. Urine albuminous, and contained pus; renal tubes, cast, granular matter, and small capsules, which, at the time, the Doctor thought to be cancer cells. Nov. 28. Had a severe attack of hæmoptysis, urinary difficulties remaining the same. Nov. 30. Hemorrhage ceased, leaving patient very weak and exhausted. From this time he gradually failed, until Dec. 27th, when he died.

Autopsy, twenty-four hours after death. Body much emaciated.

Thorax. Lungs contained cavities at each apex, and were, throughout their whole extent, affected with tubercular pneumonia. Heart, normal.

Abdomen. The left kidney was rather larger than normal, and its surface lobulated. Upon section, it was found to consist of merely a shell of the cortical portion, containing a creamy substance consisting entirely of tubercular matter.

The right kidney was enlarged, and contained a few tubercular deposits, together with a cyst containing about an ounce of urinous-looking fluid. The prostatic portion of the urethra contained two large, empty abscesses. The gall bladder had in it one gall stone. Other organs normal.

Dr. Thos. Hun said it was rare to find the whole kidney so completely diseased.

Dr. M. L. Mead reported a case of fracture of the patella. Patient, a female, aged 45, while making a motion to kick in fun, fell, and on rising found her patella was fractured. There was no contusion, or evidence of any injury to the external soft parts. The Doctor considered it a case of fracture from muscular contraction. Firm union resulted in six weeks.

Dr. Alex. A. Edmeston reported a case of fracture of the patella in three pieces from muscular contraction.

Dr. Alden March presented several pathological specimens:

First—Specimen being cancerous disease of the female breast. Lady aged 50, married, and one child; health generally good. Several months ago noticed a small, circumscribed hardness in gland. Has not menstruated during the last four months. A few weeks ago considered the growth of a malignant character, and removed the whole gland. Nodules were deep seated, and on opening the gland induration was strongly marked. There was no enlargement of the glands in the axilla. Dr. M. thought had he attempted to remove a portion of the gland, hemorrhage would have been very severe, and the danger much greater. Wound healed in thirty-four days. Microscope exhibited cancer cells in the diseased mass.

Second—Specimen was from the breast of a lady of about the same age and condition in life. A Philadelphia surgeon had removed a portion of the gland, thinking it a distinct tumor, and not absolutely malignant. She recovered from the operation about the 8th of October last. January 20th, she discovered a small lump appearing over the

sternum. This was so distinct, that one could not mistake its nature. There was another similar one below the axilla. Her general health being good, he thought it best to operate and remove them. The microscope showed each to be cancerous. She made a good recovery. Dr. M. thought it best, in this disease, to remove the entire gland. The result was much more successful. There was no more important or severe operation. Where a portion of the gland is removed, the hemorrhage is apt to be very severe. We thought it best to operate whenever disease returns, if patient is in proper condition.

Third—Specimen was an adipose tumor, removed from back part of scalp, but which, from location and all, he had thought to be atheromatous previous to operation.

Fourth—Specimen consisted of portions of necrosed bone, resected from middle and second phalanges of the little finger. Finger was shortened about half an inch. This operation he did not think advisable when periosteum was not in healthy condition, Necrosis, in the above case, was caused by inflammation resulting from running a needle in the joint.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH, as chairman of the committee appointed at the last stated meeting to decide who were elected delegates to the State Medical Society, reported in favor of certificates of election being issued to Dr. A. A. Edmeston, as delegate from this Society.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER moved that the report be accepted, and the thanks of the Society be tendered to said committee. Carried.

Dr. WM. H. CRAIG moved that Dr. Whitbeck's certificate of election, as delegate, be given to Dr. A. A. Edmeston by the Secretary of the Society.

Carried.

Dr. WM. H. CRAIG moved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to Dr. Whitbeck for the fair and honorable manner in which he had surrendered his certificate. After

some discussion, the ayes and nays being called for, the motion was carried.

The Society then adjourned.

A. Van Derveer, *Secretary pro tem.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *February* 8, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, February 8th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. James L. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Boulware, E. R. Hun, A. March, H. March, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Newcomb, J. W. Moore, Porter, Quackenbush, Stevens, Vanderpoel, Wilson, Case, Craig, Devol, Edmeston.

Also, Dr. Newcomb, of ——, and Dr. Carpenter, of Madison county, a member of the Legislature.

The minutes of the last meeeting were read.

Dr. C. D. Mosher said, that in the report of a case of trismus nascentum, presented by him at the last meeting, it should be recorded that the jaws of the child were not relaxed, but owing to the absence of teeth the jaws were not in apposition.

The minutes amended as above were approved.

Dr. C. D. Mosher then exhibited specimens of tape worms, to one of which the perfect head was attached. He stated that for years he had been in the habit of using, in cases of tape worm, a decoction of pomegranate bark, followed by active cathartics, paying strict attention to the diet. Lately, he had sent patients to Mr. Sautter, a druggist, who had a large practice in this complaint, who adopted the following treatment:

Use, first, the following mixture:

℞ Etherial ext. of male fern
Fluid ext. of jalap *a a* f℥ i
Simple syrup q. s. ad f℥ iv M

Dose: tablespoonful four times a day, until all is taken.

Use, second, for final expulsion of the worm:

℞ Etherial ext. of male fern f℥ ii ss
Pulv. gum acacia ℥ vi
Water f℥ i
Simple syrup ℥ iv
Oil of peppermint gtt xii M

Dose: Tablespoonful at bed time, continuing the mixture next day, taking a tablespoonful every hour till the worm passes.

No particular attention to the diet need be observed.

Dr. NEWCOMB, of ———, reported a case of tape worm which he had treated successfully in the Sandwich Islands, by first feeding the patient only on garlics and onions, then, after a cathartic of jalaps, administering a decoction of the bark of the pomegranate root. He was of the opinion that when pumpkin seeds were used, they formed a mucilaginous mass in which the worm became entangled, and is thus removed mechanically. A decoction of the seeds, he thought, was of no effect.

Dr. O. C. ALEXANDER reported a case of "General Palsy" in a lady aged forty-five. For the last year she had been troubled with headache and backache. She was suddenly seized with paralysis of the upper extremities, then with general palsy. The fæcal and urinal evacuations were involuntary, the respiration was difficult, and the memory totally destroyed. She was usually peevish, and at times noisy. Prognosis—Death. Treatment—Iodide of potassium and tonics, principally phosphates of iron. She can now walk and freely use the right arm, and partially control the left arm. Her mind is restored, and she is gradually recovering her general health.

Dr. G. T. STEVENS mentioned a case illustrating the properties of belladonna. Opinions, he stated, differed as

to this drug producing a rash similar to scarlatina. The patient to which he referred, had taken an overdose of opium; the pupils were much contracted, and she exhibited other evidences of poisoning by opium. Tincture of belladonna was administered in small doses until the toxical effects of the opium passed away. The next morning a rash like that in measles covered the face.

Dr. C. D. Mosher said that his own children had been repeatedly affected in a similar manner by belladonna.

Dr. Newcomb, of ———, remarked that in severe cases, when patients were placed by him fully under the influence of this drug, no rash appeared, and asked whether eruption which occasionally appeared might not be due to idiosyncrasy.

Dr. C. Devol referred to a boy whom he had lately seen, aged ten years, pale and feeble, whose abdomen was enormous and pendulous. He drank ten quarts of liquids per day, and voided the same quantity of urine.

Dr. Henry March reported a case of "Confluent Small-pox," the patient a male infant ten weeks old. The Doctor attended the mother in labor, who was nursed by the grandmother, who had been previously exposed to small-pox, but of which he knew nothing previous to the death of the child.

The disease assumed its worst form, the child being finally enveloped in one continuous scab. The patient lived but one week after the disease had fairly made its appearance. The case was mentioned on account of the disease developing itself in so young a subject.

Dr. Newcomb, of ———, made some remarks on small-pox, and referred to fatal epidemics of that disease in the Sandwich Islands. He stated that there were two points of general interest, to which he would allude. 1st. The protective power of vaccination after exposure. Five and even seven days after exposure, vaccination is partially protective. There may be fever, but no pustules form. 2d. The occurrence of a cryptogamous growth in certain

cases, an exudation covers the throat and fauces. This is easily detached, and usually presents no characteristic microscopic appearance. But in some cases shafts of a cryptogamous growth appear in the exudation. In these the patient invariably die.

Dr. E. R. HUN asked whether such cryptogamous growths were not similar to those that appear in other cases of ordinary disease, as in phthisis, Bright's disease, etc.

Dr. WM. H. CRAIG referred to the advantageous use of sulphite of soda in small-pox. It was administered in four to six grain doses. The crusts peeled off in ten days without leaving any cicatrix.

Dr. J. R. BOULWARE stated that he had treated 100 to 150 cases without any medicine, and every case recovered, with the exception of a child.

Dr. NEWCOMB, of ———, said that in one case he had used mercurial ointment, spread upon bladder, applying it to half the face. No pitting occurred on that side, while the other side was covered with cicatrixes.

Dr. E. R. HUN exhibited:

First.—The right lung taken from a female patient, aged thirty-five years, who had suffered from pulmonary trouble for two years. A large cavity occupied the apex, and the lower portion of both lungs were infiltrated with tubercular deposits. The large intestines from the same patient were greatly thickened and contracted, while the sub-peritoneal tissue surrounding it was in an œdematous condition, and resembled a layer of jelly.

Second.—Also, both lungs and the large intestines of a male patient, aged forty-five years, who had suffered in the army from dysentery. The lungs contained at their apices large cavities, traversed by bands of pulmonary tissue.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH said the specimen exhibited (No. 1), is one of ivory exostosis. The patient, a young woman aged sixteen, nine months ago discovered a tumor jutting out from beneath her great toe. Excessive pain, the first

symptom that showed itself, before the preternatural growth. The tumor continued to increase in size until its removal, when it was as large as the end of the finger. It originated from the bone, and had converted the skin into a material as hard as bone.

Diagnosis.—Ivory exostosis. Amputated the second phalanx of great toe, by making a long flap below and a short one on top of the toe, secured by sutures and adhesive straps.

Microscopic examination, by Dr. E. R. Hun.—Dense bony tissue, containing Haversean canals, lacunæ, and cahiculi, which are, however, of less size and firmer in texture than is usually observed in healthy bone. It corresponds to the description given of ivory-like tumors.

Lymphatic glandular tumor, No. 2.—The wife of ——, aged thirty-five, five months since discovered a small tumor situated upon or embedded in the parotid gland, a little below and in front of the lobe of the right ear.

Diagnosis.—Lymphatic glandular tumor, situated on the parotid gland, and nearly over the portio dura. Five months before Dr. March visited the patient, the tumor was examined by a New York surgeon, who gave his diagnosis as fibrous tumor, and recommended its removal.

Operation.—Made an incision in the shape of the letter U, raised the flaps, and removed the tumor, without injury to the nerve. The points of interest are, first, the diagnosis; second, the mode and delicacy of the operation, on account of its proximity to the facial nerve and the temporal artery.

Microscopical examination, by Dr. E. R. Hun.—The tumor consists of true glandular tissue, and contains no more fibrous tissue than is usually found between the lobules of a lymphatic gland.

Dr. J. H. Armsby remarked that there was no instance known where the functions of a divided facial nerve were completely restored, though there was in many cases a partial restoration of both sensor and motor power.

Dr. GEO. T. STEVENS alluded to a case of bony tumor, which he removed from the toe of a patient, aged 20. As yet there had been no reappearance of the disease.

Dr. ARMSBY moved, and Dr. March seconded, a resolution that the Society hereafter meet on Tuesday evening.

Carried.

Dr. ARMSBY moved, and it was seconded, that the Secretary be directed to invite the medical gentlemen, members of the Legislature, and Dr. Hoyt, one of the Commissioners of Public Charities, to attend the meetings of the Society.

Carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER alluded to the scarcity of the New York State Medical Transactions, and trusted that measures might be taken to procure a more abundant supply.

Dr. WESLEY M. CARPENTER, a Member of Assembly, then said that the Transactions were a legislative document, and that there ought to be a proper number printed. He stated that he would use his influence and best efforts to secure such a result.

The meeting then adjourned.

CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

ALBANY, *February* 23, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President being absent, on motion of Dr. ALDEN MARCH, the Vice-President, Dr. J. W. Moore, took the chair, and called the meeting to order.

Members present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, JAMES S. BAILEY, BOULWARE, BULLOCK, CASE, CRAIG, DEVOL, EDMESTON, FREEMAN, GREGORY, E. R. HUN, THOS. HUN, LANSING, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, J. MCNAUGHTON, MEAD, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, J. W. MOORE, NEWCOMB, PORTER,

Quackenbush, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Thompson, Vanderpoel, Van Derveer, Wilson.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The President, Dr. J. L. Babcock, then announced the death of Dr. James E. Pomfret; after which,

Dr. J. V. Lansing presented a series of resolutions regarding his death.

On motion, the President appointed the following committee to draft resolutions, expressing the sense of the Society on the death of Dr. Pomfret: Drs. J. V. Lansing, Thomas Hun and J. V. P. Quackenbush.

On motion, the Society

Resolved, That the regular course of procedure be modified, and that Dr. J. V. Lansing, the attending physician of Dr. Pomfret, be invited to give a report of his case.

Dr. Lansing then gave a verbal report of the case, and said that at a subsequent meeting he would make a more detailed statement.

Dr. James S. Bailey then reported a case of Malarial Cachexia; he said Mr. M., aged thirty-five, enlisted in the 177th Reg't N. Y. Vols., October, 1862; he was then in good health. He shortly after went to Louisiana, and was encamped for three months upon the banks of the Mississippi, drinking the impure river water. The exposure during a march of seventy or eighty miles, through mud and water, was followed by rheumatic pains, lassitude and swelling about the region of the kidneys. Soon after, at Port Hudson, he had swamp fever, and was discharged from the service in September, and then was attacked with congestive fever, followed by diarrhœa. He then occasionally had chills and fever, until August, 1863, when he enlisted in the 11th N. Y. Battery. He enjoyed good health until autumn, when he had attacks of excessive pains in the bowels, which rapidly increased in frequency and severity. In March, 1864, there was tumefaction over the liver; difficult micturition and respiration, and his

bowels were swollen. At times he was treated for pleu risy. In November, 1867, the cramps in his bowels increased in severity, and was accompanied with fainting attacks. October 8th, the Doctor saw him, and diagnosed it as a case of malarial cachexia, with torpid liver, and prescribed simple and nutritious diet, with a tonic course of treatment. He improved for a month, gaining five pounds, when he took cold. Deglutition was then difficult; the throat was highly inflamed, and the fauces were covered with ulcers. He had diarrhœa, which was, with dfficulty, controlled. He died February 16th.

Autopsy by Dr. Boulware twenty-four hours after death. Body greatly emaciated; no effusion in the thoracic cavity; both lungs firmly united to the costal pleura by old adhesions; apices of both lungs indurated, containing masses of infiltrated tubercles; peritonial cavity contained about a pint of pale, yellowish fluid. The upper surface of the liver was firmly united to the diaphragm, the result of inflammation; the under surface was bound to the stomach by fibrous bands. The liver was normal in size, of a pale, yellow color; the cells were gorged with oil. The kidneys were of the usual size; the cortical portion was of a pale, yellow color, presenting the appearance of fatty degeneration. The stomach was enlarged, and its walls were flaccid. The coils of the intestines were firmly agglutinated together, and softened. The anterior surface of the intestines was firmly attached to the abdominal parietes. There were numerous ulcerations of the lower portion of the ileum; some of the ulcerations extended through the mucous and muscular coats.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH then reported the following cases:

CASE I.—*Congenital varix* of the occipital, temporal, and facial veins, at the point where they join the trunk of the internal jugular. James Mitchell, of Meridian, N. Y., October 12, had a well-defined, oval-shaped tumor, nearly the size of a goose egg, behind the left angle of the lower jaw. It was first noticed when the patient was three months

old; it gradually increased in size, and, on taking cold, became painful, and of more rapid growth than usual. The tumor had a boggy feel, and a rather obscure fluctuation, and, in parts, appeared lobulated. The anterior surface of the tumor had a blue or venous appearance; when cut into, a sero-venous fluid escaped. When the tumor was removed, there could be seen the first belly of the digastricus muscle above the branches, a portion of the trunk of the internal jugular and the carotid artery, beside the vein. But little blood was lost; the patient bore the operation remarkably well.

The interior of the tumor presented the appearance of the auricle of the human heart. The columnæ carnæ were nearly as distinct and as well developed.

Case II.—*Malignant affections of the female breast.* Sir Benjamin Brodie first pointed out three varieties of cancer of the female breast. In the first, the disease is developed in a distinct tubercle. In the second, the disease early exhibited the characteristics of scirrhus of the gland and skin. There is apparently no isolated tumor.

In the third variety there are extensive tubercles in and on the surface of the gland, and in the skin.

The first variety was the most favorable for operation with the knife, and to this belongs the specimen exhibited. In this case the Doctor said there was neither discoloration nor adhesion of the tumor to the skin, and yet there was an enlargement of one or two of the axillary sympathetic glands.

The patient, Mrs. W., aged sixty-seven, and thin in flesh. In August last she noticed a small tumor in the left breast, which gradually increased in size six weeks. She first experienced pain in the diseased breast, and in the corresponding shoulder and arm, and four weeks since discovered a glandular tumor in the axilla. The breast was amputated on the 17th instant. A favorable result is anticipated.

Case III. — *Epithelioma* — Epithelial cancer of the

penis. Pat. Brice, aged forty-seven, when five years of age received an injury of the penis, which resulted in the completion of a partial phymosis. At various times the pent-up, unhealthy secretions caused inflammation of the glands and prepuce, which resulted in adhesions and more rigid phymosis. He was partially relieved by slitting open the orifice of the phymosis. July 20, he was examined by Dr. March, who diagnosed the diseased epithelioma. For eight days potassii iodide and ext. conium maculatum were administered. July 28, operated for phymosis. The above-named prescription was used for a month, and then Fowler's solution, with various local applications, but the ulcer did not heal, and the patient left December 15th. A few days since he returned, his general health was impaired, and he was suffering great pain. The penis was greatly enlarged. February 20, it was amputated. Dr. March said he had treated six cases; in five of which he had amputated, four resulted favorably.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER moved that the thanks of the Society be given to Dr. March for his able and interesting reports. Carried.

D. J. W. MOORE presented the following cases of conservative surgery.

CASE I.—Bridget Kelley, aged twelve years, sustained, April 27th, an extensive burn on her right forearm. The burn was deep, extending from the wrist upwards about two inches in breadth and five inches in length on anterior, and two inches in breadth and three in length on posterior surface. There was no pain; in four days the slough began to separate; the tendons of the flexor carpi radialis, and palmaris longus, and the surrounding uncovered tissues presented an unhealthy look.

May 8th, the Doctor was summoned, on account of sudden and excessive hemorrhage from the ulnar artery, which had completely prostrated the patient. The hemorrhage had soon ceased. Compresses and the usual dressings were applied, and beef tea and brandy ordered. In

four hours after, hemorrhage again occurred, a tourniquet was applied, search was made for the artery, but it was not found then nor afterwards. Amputation was decided upon. The friends not allowing the operation to be performed, the wounded surface was smeared with persulphate of iron. No hemorrhage afterwards occurred. On the fifth day the thick crust, produced by the persulphate, came off. The surface healed in about forty days. The contraction of the cicatrix was so slight as not to interfere with the girl's occupation as a weaver.

Case II.—John Lyons, aged ten years, sustained, Oct. 27th, an extensive laceration of the right forearm by its being caught between two gears. The machinery removed a triangular mass of tissue about four inches in length, on the surface going down about two inches at the base of the wound. All the muscles on the outer side were severed, as were also the ulnar and radial arteries. There was little hemorrhage and no injury to the joint. Water dressings were applied and stimulants administered. Six hours after the Doctor was sent for, excessive hemorrhage having occurred, which ceased before his arrival. Amputation was decided upon; it being dark it was set down for the next day. In the morning the parents objected to the operation. Persulphate of ferri was freely used over the wound, and compresses and bandages applied from the fingers up. In forty days the crust came off, leaving a clean surface. Carbolic acid was afterwards employed and kept up for sixty-five days. There was no return of hemorrhage after the persulphate of ferri was applied. The wound now healed with about two inches of ulna gone and a want of complete flexure and extension of the forearm.

Dr. Moore said that these cases were reported simply to contribute two more to the already large number of remarkable cures nature will sometimes make in spite of ill feeding, poor ventilation and impoverished condition.

Dr. A. March moved that the thanks of the Society be

presented to Dr. Moore for his interesting and instructive reports. Carried.

Dr. SABIN then presented to the Society's museum a Chameleon.

It was moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. S. for his contribution. Carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER then exhibited a liquid which had been removed from a tumor located on the side of the neck of a man aged twenty-eight years. The patient had been tapped a number of times. On the last occasion eight ounces of liquid had been drawn off. The case was interesting as the liquid contained cholesterine.

Dr. CRAIG moved that the meeting now adjourn, to meet at the hospital at one o'clock to-morrow, Wednesday, and that the Secretary be directed to include the names of those now present in the minutes of the adjourned meeting. Carried.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

ADJOURNED MEETING.

ALBANY, *Feb.* 24, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital on Wednesday, Feb. 24th, at one o'clock, P. M.

The following members were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, BECKETT, BOULWARE, BULLOCK, CASE, CRAIG, DEVOL, DUNKELMEYER, EDMESTON, FREEMAN, GREGORY, E. R. HUN, THOMAS HUN, LANSING, LEWI, A. MARCH, H. MARCH, J. MCNAUGHTON, MEAD, J. W. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, D. V. O'LEARY, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, SABIN, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VANDERPOEL. VAN DERVEER, WILSON and WINNE.

The President, Dr. BABCOCK, called the meeting to order, and said:

Gentlemen—We are convened to-day to give expression to our sorrow for the loss by death of our brother, Dr. James E. Pomfret. In the meridian of life, while actively pursuing his professional labors, he is suddenly stricken by disease, and soon the melancholy tidings of his death fall upon our ears. I need not speak in detail of the useful and honorable positions he has held as professor and teacher in our institutions of learning, nor of his professional skill, as known and acknowledged in that beneficent institution where the wounded and diseased seek relief. Possessed of rare intellectual endowments and professional acquirements; dignified and reserved, but mild in manner; a scholar and a gentleman, he won and occupied places of distinguished honor, discharging with zeal and fidelity the duties incumbent upon him. As God, in His mysterious Providence, thus removes one from our circle, it is highly appropriate that we inscribe upon our records a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased, and communicate to the bereaved family such consolation as may be contained in the assurance that we, his associates, with them, loved and respected him in life, and deeply mourn his death.

Dr. J. V. Lansing, as chairman of the committee appointed for the purpose, then offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That by the death of Dr. James E. Pomfret, this Society sensibly appreciate that it has lost one of its most esteemed and cherished members.

Resolved, That while speaking words of acknowledgment and praise of his high mental attainments, of love for the modest manliness of his character, of satisfaction at his pure and excellent professional record, we cannot withhold the utterance of our deep regret for what seems to us the too early closing of a life that promised so much of greater usefulness and higher eminence.

Resolved, That the tenderest sympathies for their loss are hereby expressed and tendered to the family of the deceased, and that as a further slight mark of respect for his memory, this Society attend his funeral in a body.

The resolutions were adopted.

Dr. C. DEVOL said that he rarely made the slightest amendments to any resolutions offered, but that the resolutions just read differed from those usually presented on such occasions, as they did not contain the slightest recognition of a Supreme Being, which recognition he hoped would be embodied in them. He would suggest this as belonging to a Society, most of the members of which are Christian gentlemen, and because the deceased member was formerly a clergyman.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER said he understood the resolutions differently from the last speaker, and that they appeared to him proper for the occasion.

On motion, the resolutions were again read.

It was then moved and seconded that the adoption of the resolutions be reconsidered. Carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER remarked that he was of the decided opinion that the omission of the ordinary preamble was advisable. He said that the usual form of words really meant little or nothing, and that the resolutions, as introduced, although they contained no allusion to God, were, in themselves, suitable and proper. This was not a prayer meeting, but a meeting for the purpose of showing respect for a deceased member, and sorrow for the loss the Society had sustained in his death. Moreover, he thought it would show discourtesy to the committee to make changes in the resolutions after they left their hands, especially as at a previous meeting the resolutions were approved, and were not adopted, only that it might be done formally on this occasion.

It was then moved by Dr. BOULWARE, and seconded by Dr. C. D. Mosher, that the resolutions as reported by the committee be adopted. Carried.

It was then moved and seconded, that the Secretary be instructed, by the Society, to communicate to the family of the deceased, in writing, the President's address and the resolutions. Carried.

Dr. WM. H. CRAIG moved, and it was seconded, that the

President's address and the resolutions, be printed in the city newspapers, and in the form of circular, for distribution. Carried.

Dr. C. Devol then said he would either feel obliged to protest against his name appearing as countenancing the resolutions, as apparently there was a designed omission made, which was countenanced by the Society, of the existence of the Almighty, or would feel obliged to withdraw from the Society.

Dr. C. D. Mosher protested against any such entry on the record as the remarks just made by the last speaker, and hoped that the Society would direct the Secretary to omit them from the minutes.

The Society then adjourned, to attend the funeral of Dr. Pomfret, at St. Paul's Church.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *March* 9, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, March 9th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. James L. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Wm. H. Bailey, Boulware, Craig, Devol, Dunkelmeyer, Edmeston, Freeman, Gregory, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Lansing, A. March, J. McNaughton, J. W. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, Sims, B. P. Staats, Stevens, Vanderpool, Van Derveer, Winne.

Also, Dr. Hoyt, of the Commission of Public Charities, and the following members of the Assembly: Drs. Carpenter, Kendall, Cook, Mitchell, La Moree.

The President announced the death of Dr. A. G. Fonda, one of the original members of the Society.

Dr. A. MARCH moved that a committee of three be appointed by the President, of which Dr. James McNaughton shall be chairman, to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Dr. Fonda.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. James McNaughton, Alden March, and Barent P. Staats.

Dr. BOULWARE then reported a case of cancer, involving the liver and the entire sub-peritoneal tissue.

Dr. B. had seen the patient but a few hours before his death, and could learn but little of his previous history. He was a man aged 60; had been sick about two months, and occasionally suffered from severe pain in the gastric and umbilical regions. There was at times nausea, but no vomiting. During the last two or three weeks of his life there was a general and rapid wasting of the tissues of his body.

Post-mortem examination, twenty-four hours after death. The body was greatly emaciated, and the abdomen much distended. The thoracic viscera were healthy; the abdominal cavity contained two gallons of pale, straw-colored serum; the peritoneum was smooth, and free from inflammation. The lower border of the right lobe of the liver contained several cancerous deposits; the largest was of the size of a hen's egg. The tissues of these deposits were firm, and when laid open were of a dull white color and free from blood vessels, presenting some of the characteristics of scirrhus. The remainder of the liver was quite healthy. The entire sub-serous cellular tissue was thickly studded with cancerous deposits of a whitish color, which varied in size from a hemp seed to that of a split pea, and these discrete cancerous nodules were thickly sown between the folds of the peritoneum forming the lesser and greater omentum. The adipose substance usually found between the serous layers of the omentum, was completely absorbed, and the greater omentum was shriveled up and degenerated into a mere band, and lay closely rolled up on itself along the greater curvature of the stomach. Between the perito-

neal layers of the mesentery, there was an aggregation of these cancerous deposits, and these aggregations were more numerous along the attached margin of the mesentery to the intestines. The stomach, intestines and kidneys were healthy. The peritoneum was free from inflammation, but a very small portion of the liver was diseased, and there appeared to be no organs or set of organs sufficient to cause death; but these little indurated cancerous deposits were so numerous between the serous layers of the mesentery, as to interfere seriously with the functions of the lymphatic vessels of the small intestines; and since there could not be anything approaching a free passage of chyle or lacteal fluid through these vessels to the general circulation, the Doctor gave it as his opinion that the patient died of starvation or inanition, in consequence of this obstruction to the transmission of nutritious matter from the intestines to the center of the circulation.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel then remarked that cancer of the liver was usually of an encephaloid character, and that the organ was commonly greatly enlarged. The effusion into the abdominal cavity in the case presented by Dr. B. was owing, not to disease of the liver, but to that of the serous membranes.

Dr. S. H. Freeman next reported a case of "Catalepsy." The subject, aged sixteen years, medium size, of florid complexion, was of a nervo-sanguineous temperament. Last autumn she suffered from a protracted attack of bronchitis, accompanied with aphonia, but had recovered from this disease, and was apparently well. Several weeks after he had ceased visiting her, the Doctor was sent for in haste, and was told she was dying. He found her friends in a state of great excitement, but the paroxysm had subsided, and the patient appeared cheerful and well. A few days after she had a similar attack, while riding in the cars, and was carried home passive and unconscious. For nearly two months these paroxysms occurred regularly about four o'clock P. M. each day, and continued about one

hour. The Doctor saw her in one of these paroxysms. She was perfectly insensible, and retained the same expression of countenance and position of the body as at the moment of attack. There was slight rigidity of the muscles, so that she would remain in any position in which she was placed. Her respiration was natural, pulse slow (about sixty), eyes partially closed and fixed; the pupils were somewhat dilated, but slightly contracted when exposed to a strong light. The cold douche, the application of ammonia to the nostrils, the prick of a pin seemed to make no impression upon her. At the expiration of the usual period, the paroxysm subsided, and she appeared cheerful and well, with the exception of a slight feeling of lassitude. Her mother stated that she had never menstruated. A blister was directed to be applied to the sacrum, and an emmenagogue of iron, aloes and myrrh prescribed. In the course of a few weeks the paroxysms became of less frequency and duration. They have now entirely ceased, and she enjoys uninterrupted health.

Drs. C. D. MOSHER, QUACKENBUSH and others reported what they believed to be causes of catalepsy.

Drs. JAS. MCNAUGHTON expressed the opinion that the case reported by Dr. Freeman was rather one of hysteria than catalepsy.

The report gave rise to a general review and discussion of the subject of catalepsy, mesmerism, and feigned phenomena of an analagous character, in which Drs. B. P. STAATS, A. MARCH, LANSING and others took part.

Dr. ALDEN MARCH then exhibited a "Diseased Knee Joint," stating that the case belonged to Dr. Beckett. The Doctor remarked that the man, aged twenty-five, from whom the specimen was taken, was wounded by a minnie ball in the leg, six inches below the knee joint, the ball cutting through the fibula; a fistulous opening leading to a spicula of bone remained, after the wound was generally healed; a few weeks since, inflammation occurred in the joint, and afterwards extended in either direction.

The cartilages were soon absorbed, and the periosteum of the neighboring bone removed. The limb became greatly swollen, and the pain excessive. The pus formed burrowed between the adjacent muscles and fasciæ, and was said to have discharged from the fistula to the extent of about a pint a day. On tapping below the joint, about a quart of pus escaped, and a similar quantity was discharged through the opening made in the popliteal region. The limb was amputated about a week since by Dr. Beckett, assisted by Drs. A. March and Stevens.

Dr. March next reported a case of sero-cystic tumor of the breast. He said cysts have been classified according to the nature of their contents, etc.; as gaseous, serous, synovial, mucous, sanguinous, fatty, colloid, and cysts of secreting glands. Mrs. M., aged thirty-seven years, married and in good health. Six months since she discovered a small tumor on the axillary side of the right breast. It gradually increased in size and was without pain until within the last two weeks. There was no discoloration or adhesion of the skin to the tumor nor retraction of the nipple. The tumor felt firm and rather nodulated; it was diagnosed as incipient scirrhus. On cutting into the tumor about two drachms of a dishwater-like serum escaped. There was also found a small cyst of the size of a pea near the large or parent one. A microscopic examination by Dr. E. R. Hun, shows that the walls of the cyst are formed of dense fibrous tissue. The indurated mass which the cyst contains is composed in great part of nucleated cells of various shapes and free nuclei.

Dr. Samuel Mitchell, of Steuben county, then referred to the cure of cancer as effected by extract of oxalis acetosella (common wood-sorrel), and reported a number of cases where the disease had been apparently removed by this agent; one of scirrhus of the female breast, when, soon after the application of the extract, sloughing took place, the scirrhus mass was gradually protruded, and was finally expelled. Also another of epithelioma of the eye-lid.

The extract seemed only to seriously affect the diseased tissue; it limited its progress and finally the ulcer healed.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH then read from Byford on "Tumors of the Uterus," with especial reference to the alleged calcareous degeneration of fibrous tumors. He stated that at a former meeting of the State Medical Society, one of the members exhibited a stone-like mass which had been found detached in the uterus of a dead woman. Dr. Quackenbush then exhibited a similar mass of the size of a small apple, and said, some time since I removed a polypoid tumor from a woman and placed it in Goadby's solution (containing salt, alum and corrosive sublimate). The solution gradually evaporated, and when the evaporation was completed, instead of the tumor, this stone-like mass remained. The resemblance between the two is so striking that it seems to me conclusive that they were formed in the same way. In other words, the calcareous tumors found detached in the uterus are not produced by the degeneracy of a tumor by vital act, but becoming detached, a chemical change takes place whereby the tumor is coverted into a mass of mineral matter.

During the discussion that took place on the above subject, Dr. J. R. BOULWARE made substantially the following remarks. The ossification or metamorphosis that takes place in fibroid textures, changing them to a mineral substance, is as much the result of a vital act of the economy as the formation of the original fibroid growth. When a strictly fibrous tumor becomes separated or detached from the living organism, the atoms of which it is composed cannot by a chemical change or any other process be converted into a mineral substance. The fibrous tumor that Dr. Quackenbush put into the jar containing the mineral solution, played the same part to form the mineral tumor that he now presents to the Society, that the fibres of wood play when undergoing petrifaction, the particles of wood being gradually decomposed and displaced, and in their

stead we have the infiltration and solidification of mineral matter that was held in solution.

The Society then adjourned.

Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *March* 23, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital on Tuesday, March 23d, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The President, Dr. Babcock, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Boulware, Bullock, Craig, Devol, Edmeston, Freeman, Heusted, E. R. Hun, T. Hun, Lamb, Lansing, J. McNaughton, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Northrop, Porter, Rossman, B. P. Staats, Vanderpoel, Van Derveer, and Winne.

Also, Dr. C. S. Hoyt, of the Commission of Public Charites, and the following Members of the Assembly: Drs. W. M. Carpenter, J. V. Kendall, Geo. Cook.

Dr. James McNaughton, chairman of the committee appointed at the last meeting to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Dr. A. G. Fonda, said: The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Society to consider what action would be proper in relation to the death of Dr. Alexander Glen Fonda, of the city of Schenectady, one of the founders of the Albany County Medical Society, re-respectfully make the following report:

Dr. Fonda was born in Schenectady, on the 17th of August, 1785. He was the son of Colonel Fonda, an officer in the war of the Revolution. Dr. Fonda had the benefit of a liberal education, and was graduated at Union College in 1803. Studied medicine subsequently under Dr. Archibald H. Adams, then an eminent physician in Schenectady. In May, 1806, he was licensed to practice physic and surgery. Two months later he attended the first meeting held in this city for the purpose of organizing the Albany County Medical Society, under the law of 1806. There were only ten physicians and surgeons present at that meeting, of whom

Dr. Fonda was the youngest, being then under age. Three of the physicians were from Schenectady, two from Bethlehem, and five from the city of Albany. Under the law of 1806, physicians were authorized to connect themselves with the nearest organized medical society, whether in the same county or not. Dr. Fonda continued to practice his profession in his native city for many years, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his patients. He was a man of fine personal appearance and address, but quiet and unpretending in his manners. After the lapse of fifty years he joined with this Society at its semi-centennial celebration; a stranger to most of its members, but honored and revered as the only one of its founders present. As he was the youngest member at the formation of the Society, so it pleased Divine Providence to make him the last of the founders to be called to his account.

Dr. Fonda retired from the practice of his profession more than ten years ago, and gracefully spent the evening of his days looking after his farm, and discharging the duties of a good citizen as a neighbor, friend and father.

Only ten days before his own death he lost his wife, with whom he was united for more than sixty years. During a long life he had enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health, and died on the 4th day of March, 1869, at the mature age of fourscore years and four, having finished his work on earth to enter, we trust, on a high state of existence in another and better world.

Three sons and two daughters survive their parents. One of the sons, Dr. David E. Fonda, has been for a quarter of a century a resident of this city, and is well known and esteemed in this Society.

Your committee recommend that this brief memorial of the deceased be entered on our book of minutes, and a copy be sent to the family, with an assurance of our sympathy in their bereavement, and our regret at the loss of their honored parents.

(Signed) JAMES MCNAUGHTON,
BARENT P. STAATS,
ALDEN MARCH,
Committee.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOEL moved that the report of the committee be accepted, and that the recommendations suggested be carried out. Carried.

Dr. BARENT P, STAATS then spoke of the treatment of chronic ulcers. He said that at the penitentiary the average number of prescriptions he daily made was thirty, which was at the rate of 9,000 per year, or 189,000 for the twenty-one years of his service as physician to that institution. A very large proportion of the prisoners were

inebriates, whose systems were more or less completely broken down, and upon whose limbs were frequently found ulcers of long standing. Besides the constitutional treatment, which varied in different cases, he used for a tonic the different local applications commonly applied, as painting, bandaging, ointments, etc., and found that about as many remained uncured as were cured. He then had recourse to dry cotton wool, an article cheap, convenient and readily applied, and his success had been so noteworthy that he felt that he could properly do no less than urge the profession to try it. It had succeeded in his hands far better than anything else, most ulcers healing rapidly under its influence. He usually applied it dry three times a day; if there was much inflammation, he employed it wet until the inflammation subsided. If there were exuberant granulations, they were treated with carbolic acid or cupri sulphas before the cotton was applied. The same article he stated was also a good application to ulcerated buboes, after lancing, to blisters, etc.

Dr. Staats then referred to "Feigned Diseases," which, he said, are frequent among prisoners, and which often require the utmost vigilance, sagacity and perseverance in the physician to detect. He illustrated his remarks by relating a number of cases drawn from his experience.

In alluding incidentally to the ill effects of solitary confinement, he remarked that his observations satisfied him that they principally arose from self-pollution. He had used with success in such cases, to restore the general health, arsenical solution, with tinct. of capsicum, and to prevent a continuation of the habit, he had recourse to circumcision, or to slit the prepuce.

Dr. J. V. Lansing then reported the case of Dr. J. E. Pomfret. He said: On the fourth of December last, Dr. Pomfret spoke to him of his general weakness, loss of appetite, lack of mental energy, of pain in the back part of his head and upper part of his spine, which latter, he thought might be referred to a jarring step he had acci-

dentally made a week or two before. Dr. Lansing subsequently learned that for a month previous he had suffered from the above symptoms, together with a dull pain over the frontal region on first awakening in the morning, frequently followed by a severe fit of vomiting, upon rising, after which the pain would disappear. During the three following weeks, he attended to his duties, but, it was observed, with a depressed and tired air. Dec. 24th, he had a severe attack of vomiting; his countenance was of a dusky hue; there was great dullness of apprehension; a mistaking of persons and things; a hesitating and thickness of utterance, and great drowsiness. He remained thus for twenty-four hours, when he awoke brighter and refreshed, complaining only that he felt a little tired and weak. He continued nearly in this condition a week or ten days, with occasional attacks of forgetfulness, a want of appreciation of his condition, and a lack of ordinary interest in the news, his business, etc. From the 4th to the 10th of January, there was a great tendency to drowsiness and sleep; he would not ask for food or drink, and was unconscious of movements of his bowels, which only occurred after laxatives had been taken. Evidence of confusion and wandering of intellect became more frequent, illusions of sight were common, and he imagined himself much of the time in the army. He could correct these impressions on having his attention called to them. His head felt hotter than the rest of his body, and he would sometimes speak of a slight pain over the left temporal region. His forehead and scalp were usually bathed in perspiration, while the rest of his body was of natural moisture. Pulse steadily at sixty-four; urine scanty and high colored, with excess of urate of ammonia. There was no paralysis; the tongue, when first protruded, inclined to the left side, but soon maintained itself on the median line. During the following week he exhibited more animation, and was hopeful, but there was less coherency in his talk. When walking, as he occasionally did in his room, there was no indi-

cation of paralysis, only a tottering of his limbs, as from weakness. His writing, which was tremulous, showed occasional misspelt words. From Jan. 24th to Feb. 14th, there was a great failure of strength and emaciation of body, a greater incoherency of thought, and dullness of comprehension, and the urine and fæces were passed involuntarily. During the last week of his illness, the failure of his strength was much more marked; his pulse rose from sixty-four to one hundred and ten; his respiration became more feeble and hurried, and his language more incoherent. There were occasional slight spasms of his face and arms. He gradually lost the control of his lower limbs, which on the third day preceding his death were completely paralyzed. He died, without convulsions, February 22d.

Beyond the existence of grave cerebral disease, the diagnosis of the case was not clearly understood. The prognosis of the case from the first was almost hopeless. The treatment was avoidance of all excitement, careful nourishment and moderate stimulation. The medicines taken were, Huxham's tincture of bark and potassii iodinum and hydrargyri iodinum, and later, solution of phosphoric acid.

The autopsy was held eight hours after death; the head only was examined; the tissues of the scalp were preternaturally dry. At the bottom of the anterior portion of the longitudinal fissure, the blood vessels seemed more numerous, distinct and congested than usual, and the two hemispheres at that point were slightly adherent by a sort of plastic exudation. At this point, also, there seemed to be a bulging out of the left hemisphere, which pressed over against and seemed to indent the right side.

Upon slicing off the left anterior hemisphere, the knife soon came upon points of altered, discolored and abnormal brain structure, when, by careful paring away of healthy tissue, a diseased mass was laid bare of the size of a large hen's egg. The outer edges of this mass were of a dirty,

greenish-yellow, passing into a red color. It was located in the white matter of the anterior portion of the left hemisphere, above the anterior portion of the lateral tubercles on that side, pressing down upon, not apparently breaking into, the ventricles. Upon drawing the knife through the center of this diseased portion, it was found to be soft, pulpy and pultaceous, and without any visible trace of organization. Its color was reddish, and, in places, greenish-yellow and red. Upon exposure to the air, it became of a more rosy tint. The gray matter of the convolutions above the locality of the diseased mass just described, did not appear to be involved. A gentle stream of water running upon a section made from this diseased center outward, would wash away the pulpy disorganized portions, and leave the white substance with a ragged, thready and macerated edge.

No other point of disease was found in any other portion of the cerebrum or cerebellum. The texture of the brain was unusually firm, and the puncta vasculosa were numerously exhibited upon section.

The medulla oblongata and the pons varolii appeared somewhat shrunken in size, or as if their watery portions had been withdrawn; the network of small blood-vessels on their surface was very distinct, and colored red. Upon opening the right lateral ventricle, there flowed out about an ounce of clear serum, of a yellowish color, slightly tinged with green; from the left, there flowed about an ounce and a half of serum, a little more deeply tinged with green than that from the right, and a part of which was in the form of a jelly, not ropy or tenacious, more friable than the white of an egg, and like that sometimes found in effusions of serum in closed cavities.

Upon carefully examining portions of the diseased brain-matter with the microscope, there were found altered blood corpuscles, granular cells, and granular masses in abundance; some fat globules, and a few minute crystalline bodies of undetermined nature.

The microscopic elements were those and those only which pathologists, such as Rokitansky, Gluzis, Bennett, Jones and Sieveking say follow or are found after inflammatory disease of the brain tissue, attended with exudation. From the history and progress of the case, the appearances presented to the eye by the diseased structure upon post-mortem; from the rude test of running water washing away the softened tissue, and from the finer test of the microscope, I conclude the disease of which Dr. Pomfret died, to have been exudative softening of the anterior portion of the left hemisphere of the brain.

Dr. Thomas Hun remarked, that in the report of the post-mortem examination of Dr. Pomfret, just read, the diseased portion of the brain was described as an unorganized mass. It did not impress him so. It seemed to him organized, with blood vessels passing through it, some of which had been ruptured. As for the consistency of the mass, it was such that the parts retained their shape for a considerable time after their division.

Dr. Lansing replied, that the cerebral portion of the diseased mass was soft and pultaceous.

Dr. E. R. Hun then stated that he had made a microscopic examination of portions of the diseased parts, and had found cancer cells in them, but could not discover any broken down or varicose nerve cells. On a re-examination, he was unable to find cancer cells, though a number of specimens were looked at.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel said: What was the character of the disease of which Dr. Pomfret died? Was it softening of the brain, or was it of a cancerous nature?

Dr. Lansing had assumed that it was softening, while Dr. Hun and others, as well as himself, believed it to be cancerous, and based their conclusions to some extent on the result of microscopical examinations. But this partial view is not sufficient; it is necessary to look further, and enquire as well for the causes of the disease and the symptoms which appeared. The symptoms of many organic affections

of the brain are so similar, that it is often impossible to diagnose them satisfactorily. Softening may arise from lack of nutrition to the parts, whether from emboli, or the plugging up of an artery, which most commonly occurs in middle-aged people, or from thrombosis, which is more frequent in old people. Great mental anxiety is a common exciting cause of the disease, and this we fail to find in Dr. Pomfret. We naturally look in his case for emboli; these are most common in the track of the middle cerebral artery, whose branches supply the anterior and middle lobes of the brain, and the island of Reil, while other branches are distributed to the corpus striatum. Emboli occurring in the gray matter are usually accompanied by paralysis, which, however, did not occur till late in Dr. Pomfret's sickness. When emboli occurs in an artery, all those parts of the brain which it supplies become equally softened, whereas in the case under review, there was found only small, isolated portions of softened tissue before reaching the large mass. In softening, there is rarely much pain, while it is a frequent attendant of foreign growths. That the granular corpuscles mentioned as having been found in the diseased portion are necessarily evidence of softening, cannot be admitted, since Virchow, Robin, and other eminent pathologists state that they occur as well from atrophic as from inflammatory action. There is nothing, indeed, in Dr. Pomfret's case which would lead to the belief of softening. Dr. Vanderpoel then referred to the colloid mass, which he had submitted to microscopic examination, and found it to consist of an aggregation of daughter cells, without foreign matter.

Dr. J. V. R. LANSING said he could not coincide in the view of the cancerous nature of the disease, for a number of reasons:

First.—Dr. Pomfret enjoyed remarkably good health; there was no indication of cachexia in his appearance, and that cachectic, waxy appearance, so characteristic of cancer, was not apparent at any time during his sickness.

Second.—There were no cancer cells found. Dr. E. R. Hun stated that he found them, but Dr. Boulware and the speaker could not distinguish them, though a number of specimens were examined. In one case there appeared to be cancer cells, but on moving the glass cover over the slide, two cells separated which was apparently superimposed, and the nuclei could not then be seen.

Third.—If the mass was cancerous, it was remarkable that no more cancer cells were found than possibly twenty, as was claimed.

Fourth—Bennett, Andral and others speak of cancer occurring in the brain, not as a deliquescent mass, but as taking the form of a growth of a considerable consistency, while the diseased mass in this case was soft and liquified towards the center. Again, cancer is a rare disease, and while there is nothing in the symptoms ascribed to softening which were not found in Dr. Pomfret, some of the symptoms occurring in cancerous diseases were not presented in his case. Indeed, the symptoms, the Doctor said, all point to softening of the brain, rather than any malignant growth in that organ.

Dr. Vanderpoel thought that the absence of any cachexia was evidence rather of cancerous disease, for softening rarely comes on in a person in good health.

Dr. E. R. Hun said the cancer might develop so rapidly and cause death so soon that no cancerous cachexia would be apparent.

Dr. Thomas Hun said that there were two kinds of softening of the brain.

First.—That which follows encephalitis. This is the red softening of certain authors; a variety of this form may result in consequence of an apoplectic clot.

Second.—That which arises from defective nutrition. This is the white softening. It is not a sequence of encephalitis. The disease presented in the case of Dr. Pomfret differed from softening in that the structure was enlarged so that the diseased portion of the left hemisphere projected

and pressed over into the right hemisphere to such an extent that the commissure could not be seen. Enlargement is not a characteristic of cephalitis or of softening. The diseased mass in this case was a growth, not a mere change in form or consistency of the tissue. It may be that it was not of a malignant character, but it was an organized tissue permeated by blood vessels and containing apoplectic clots.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON, after referring to different varieties of softening of the brain, stated that in Dr. Pomfret's case there appeared to be on the membranes evidence of inflammatory action. He thought that there was no cancer in the spine to cause the paraplegia. After alluding to apparent discrepancies and discordant results obtained by microscopic observations, he expressed the opinion that but little good was likely to occur from further discussion of the case.

Dr. J. R. BOULWARE then presented a portion of a brain on which there was organic disease, and said: The man from whom the specimen was taken died a few days since, aged sixty-five years. He had occasionally complained of severe pain in his head for the past six or eight years. He continued to work until twenty-six days before his death, when he was confined to the house and was attended by the Doctor during the last twenty-one days of his life. During his sickness he occasionally vomited; there was little pain at any time; the respiration was normal, and the pulse continually seventy-two until the last three days, when it averaged one hundred and thirty-two. There was no paralysis until the last four days, when there was a slight paralysis of the right arm and leg. Seven hours previous to death there were slight convulsions, after which the paralysis was complete on the right side.

There was no mania or raving, but he was quiet and docile, he would not call for food or drink, but when they were presented he would take them. He continued to eat freely up to within a few days of his death. In health he was a

a great talker, but during his sickness he was little inclined to speak and only gave monosyllabic answers to questions.

The post-mortem examination was made thirty-eight hours after death. The two tumors presented, were found in the brain; they were situated alongside of each other in the anterior lobe of the left cerebral hemisphere, occupying a position just over the anterior part of the lateral ventricle. The growth of these tumors had caused the large convolutius gyrus formicatus to be pushed by the median line of the corpus callosum, encroaching upon the right cerebral hemisphere.

The tissues of the scalp were unusually dry; scarcely a drop of blood escaped when they were cut into. The blood vessels of the brain and its membranes were gorged with blood. The brain substance generally was unusually firm; around the tumors, to the extent of two inches, it was softened, and of a pale yellowish brown color. The greatest degree of softness and discoloration occurred immediate around the tumors, and decreased from the tumor to the circumference of the diseased portion, where the morbid substance gradually passed into the healthy cerebral structure.

Dr. Boulware also exhibited two encysted kidneys taken from the same subject.

Dr. J. H. Armsby, after alluding to the labors of Dr. Hoyt as Secretary of the Commission of Public Charities, moved, that Dr. Hoyt be invited to address the Society, at its next meeting, on the Public Charities of the State.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. J. R. Boulware said that the time for taking a recess at the evening meetings was so indefinite, that not only was Mr. Alexander unable to have the refreshment served hot and in suitable condition generally, but also that the out-of-town members were frequently unable to take refreshment without missing the last train. In order to avoid these inconveniencies, he moved that the Society instruct the

President to call a recess at each evening meeting at a quarter past nine o'clock.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Society then adjourned.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

ALBANY, *April* 13, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, April 13th, 1869.

Dr. JAMES L. BABCOCK, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, JAMES S. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CASE, DEVOL, DUNKELMEYER, FREEMAN, GREGORY, E. R. HUN, LANSING, A. MARCH, MEAD, L. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, PORTER, SABIN, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VAN DERVEER, WINNE and J. M. DAVIS.

Also, Dr. C. S. Hoyt.

Dr. C. S. HOYT then addressed the Society on "The Charities of New York, with special reference to the condition of the Insane." He said that in no State was there a more extensive system of Charities than in New York. The inspection of the various institution, had until within a few years been performed by Legislative committees. In 1864 an inspection of county houses was made by Dr. S. D. Willard. In 1867 the speaker, then a member of the Legislature, introduced a bill for the annual inspection of all charities, wholly or partially sustained by the State, and for the biennial examination of the county houses. In June last he was appointed Secretary of the Commission of Public Charities, and most of the time since he had been engaged in the work of inspection, making one hundred and sixty-nine visitations. The importance of a systematic inspection of these charities is apparent, even if their great pecuniary cost to the people of the State alone is considered. The State appropriates to charitable institutions annually

$400,000. The contributions directly and indirectly by counties, cities and towns, amount to $2,000,000, while also very large amounts are dispensed to lunatic asylums, etc. The entire amount, aside from that disbursed by private hands, is not less than $3,500,000.

The State institutions were generally found in good condition. The Doctor said he had devoted special attention to the county poor houses, particularly to the condition of the insane, idiots, blind and children. As a rule, the buildings were old and dirty, badly designed, poorly warmed and ventilated. There was no real classification of inmates, and the system appeared designed to increase pauperism and crime. The orphan asylums were found to be admirably managed. The Doctor was of the opinion that the children should be kept in them as short a time as possible, distributing them to families as soon as may be. Hospitals should be generously heated. There were no institutions that needed support or did more good than these. The sick and infirm can, as a rule, receive better treatment, medical or otherwise, in such institutions than at private houses. A want of all our hospitals is provision for incurables.

The State has provided three institutions for the insane: the New York State Lunatic Asylum, the Willard Hospital for the Insane, and the Hudson River State Hospital for the Insane. In addition to the above named institutions, there are also the Lunatic Asylum for Prison convicts at Auburn; several incorporated and a few private asylums, two city asylums and the several local asylums, connected with the county and town poor houses. The number of insane in the State held in custody in the various institutions is as follows:

In State institutions	680
In city asylums and alms houses	1,588
In county and town poor houses	1,528
In incorporated asylums	350
In private asylums (estimated)	200
Total	4,346

Suitable provision has been made for a portion of these, as follows:

State Lunatic Asylum, Utica	550
N. Y. City Lunatic Asylum	600
Kings County Lunatic Asylum	600
Asylum for Insane Convicts, Auburn	70
Bloomingdale Asylum, N. Y. City	160
Brigham Hall, Canandaigua	70
Marshal Infirmary, Troy	80
Total	2,130
Total number of insane in the State held in custody	4,346
Provided for as above	2,130
Leaving in custody not properly provided for	2,216

Additional provision is being made by the State, as follows:

Willard Asylum, at Ovid	500
Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie	400
	900

To be provided for after completion of the new asylum, 1,316.

These are mainly held in county or town poor houses, and in overcrowded city asylums and almshouses.

Believing that after a time the insane in these county poor houses, and similar institutions, will be removed and placed in other new establishments, it becomes a question of interest to all, and especially to the medical fraternity, Where shall these new institutions be located? It would seem highly proper that Albany county, with its large population and wealth, should establish a county asylum, receiving not only its own insane, but, for an adequate compensation, those from adjoining counties, thus relieving the State institutions, and at the same time removing the tax the county now pays to the State treasury. The Doctor stated that of the 7,019 persons in the county poor houses, 1,222 were children under sixteen years of age; 1,528 were insane; 314 were idiots; 87 were blind, 44 are deaf and

dumb; 213 of the insane were found under restraint, that is, manacled or placed in cells.

At the conclusion of Dr. Hoyt's address,

Dr. A. March moved, and Dr. Sabin seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. C. S. Hoyt, for the interesting synopsis of his report.

Carried.

Dr. J. H. Armsby moved, and Dr. Lansing seconded, the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by this Society to report at an early meeting on the condition of the Insane Poor of this county, and on the propriety and necessity of furnishing more and better accommodations for this unfortunate class of persons.

Carried.

The President announced the following as the committee authorized by the above resolution: Drs. J. H. Armsby, J. V. Lansing, J. R. Boulware, J. S. Mosher and E. R. Hun.

On motion of Dr. J. S. Mosher, Dr. J. L. Babcock was added to the committee.

Dr. C. Devol then reported a case of "Paraplegia." He said: Mrs. Anthony, of Greenbush, in the winter of 1866, had a fall, severely jarring her head and shoulders. In the following June she was seized with a severe pain under the ribs on the left side, which continued for eight or ten months, and early in the spring of 1868, a similar pain was experienced in a corresponding locality on the right side.

She was first attended by Dr. Devol, in March, 1868. She then had pain at the præcordia, and both hypochondriac regions, accompanied with a peculiar spasmodic cough, without expectoration, attended with difficult breathing and a sense of suffocation. On several occasions during these attacks, a fatal result was feared. The left lower extremities became painful, swollen and red; soon after the swelling subsided, and both the lower limbs

became stiff and clumsy, and progression more and more difficult. After several months, all voluntary motion of the legs was lost. About this time, the lower intestines and the bladder became paralyzed, and the paraplegia was complete. During the last six months of her life, the urine was drawn off by a catheter, and the bowels emptied by enemas; the evacuations were never involuntary nor spontaneous. The appetite was good; the body well nourished; the voice clear and strong; the enunciation perfect, and the intellect bright and not affected. Spasms often occurred in the lower limbs, accompanied by intense pain in the thorax. The Doctor gave his opinion that there was lesion of the spinal cord, a view concurred in by various physicians called in consultation. The treatment consisted principally of counter-irritants along the column, anodynes and tonics. Potassii iodinum was administered to the extent of 15 grains daily for two months or more. The patient died April, 1869. On post-mortem examination, the body of the first lumbar vertebra was found diseased, as also the adjacent portions of the cord. These, it is believed, were all the organic lesions in the body.

The time for refreshments having arrived,

Dr. S. H. FREEMAN moved that Dr. A. March be allowed time to present a few pathological specimens. Carried.

Dr. A. MARCH then presented:

First—A specimen of osteo sarcoma of the head of the femur. There was disease of the acetabulum, with softening of the neck of the femur, producing what seemed to be a dislocation. He had seen and procured, when in Munich, a similar specimen, in which the femur pointed toward the chin, remaining in that position.

Second—A tumor of seven years growth, in a male aged forty-three, removed from underneath the left side of the inferior maxillary bone, its highest point extending to near the ear, and covering the facial nerve. A semi-lunar incision was made over the tumor, touching the edge of the

sterno-cleido mastoid muscle, and the tumor was removed mostly by enucleation, being careful not to cut any important blood vessels or nerves. The patient did well; the wound healed nicely.

Dr. E. R. Hun made a microscopic examination, and found the pulpy mass in the center to consist of fibrous tissue and cells, containing nuclei nucleoli, also of free nuclei and fatty granulations. The cyst wall was composed almost entirely of dense fibrous tissue, in the intestines of which were a number of nucleated cells. Both the nuclei and nucleoli was large in proportion to the size of the containing cells.

Third—A tumor removed from underneath symphysis of jaw, following a precarious operation for epithelial cancer; result good.

Dr. E. R. Hun made a microscopic examination of the milky juice which exuded upon pressure from the enlarged and indurated submaxillary gland removed; nucleated cells, free nuclei and plates of chloresterne were found.

Fourth—Intractable ulcer removed from heel, it not yielding to treatment; result good.

Dr. E. R. Hun made a microscopic examination of the ulcer, and found its base composed of indurated tissue, containing yellow elastic fibers and cells of connective tissue, with granular matter; there was not sufficient evidence of malignant disease.

Under the privilege given to Dr. March,

Dr. R. H. Sabin reported the following case: The patient, two years ago, suffered severe pain in the right side, similar to that experienced during the passage of a gall stone. He was treated for that difficulty, the principal object being to relieve pain. The pain was followed by a severe diarrhœa, which was more troublesome in the morning. Tonics, etc., were given. The diarrhœa lasted one year and a half, and was followed by a soreness over and on the sides of the tongue. The ulcer had the appearance of having been touched with argenti nitras. That

agent was used locally and alteratives internally, yet the condition of the tongue remained the same.

Dr. A. VAN DERVEER presented a pathological specimen, and reported the following case: Male, aged thirty, was struck over and above the left ear by a club, knocking him senseless, and causing severe hemorrhage from left ear. He remained in an insensible condition, with all the symptoms of fracture at the base of the skull, and died about three days after receiving the blow.

Post-mortem examination eighteen hours after death. There were no external marks of violence; on removing the scalp, the left temporal muscle was found much bruised, and a fracture of the skull extending from the parietal down through the squamous and petrous portions of the temporal bone, reaching as far as the basilar process of the occipital bone. The fracture extended through the internal auditory foramen, wounding the internal auditory artery, and it was probably from this vessel the hemorrhage occurred. The fracture exposed the bones of the internal ear. There was no depression of the fractured portions of bone, as a clot was found resting in front of the mastoid process and behind the fibrous portion of the temporal bone, being partially internal and external to the dura-mater.

Dr. J. S. MOSHER reported a case of "Poisoning by Kerosene." A child, aged two years, drank poison. The symptoms were at once those of an instant poison. Great uneasiness, with thirst and constant cough. The face was flushed, and the eyes very sensitive to light. Later, there was a loose diarrhœa and profuse diaphoresis. An emetic of epicac was administered within a few minutes after the oil was swallowed, and mucilaginous drinks followed by opium, which seemed to afford instant relief. The child was up in a few days, and recovered fully. The Doctor stated that he did not consider kerosene a dangerous poison if promptly treated.

Dr. J. M. DAVIS then reported a case of "Leucocythæ-

mia." E. W., male, aged fifty-four, came under the Doctor's care November 9th, 1868. Early in the fall he took cold, and his general health, which previously had been good, began to fail. He had a slight cough for some years, but from the beginning of his present difficulties it had been troublesome, and was attended by slight hæmoptysis. The patient had noticed small swellings in the arm-pits and groin, and sent for the Doctor to examine a swelling in the left side of the abdomen, which swelling was found to be an enlarged spleen. On further examination, enlarged lymphatic glands of the axilla, groin and bend of the elbow were found. There was perceptible enlargement of the liver. The patient had a poor appetite; he had diarrhœa, cough and dyspnœa, and was debilitated and somewhat emaciated. There was no physical sign of pulmonary or cardiac disease; the pulse was about ninety. A microscopical examination of the blood revealed an excess of white corpuscles. A month later, when the patient came exclusively under the Doctor's care, he appeared worse than before, being more ænemic, debilitated and emaciated. The glandular enlargement remained the same, and there was slight œdema. He had repeated hemorrhage of the gums, and in passages there was subcutaneous ecchymosis.

Iron and quinine, nourishing diet and alcoholic stimulants were ordered, and the inhalation of tannin was commenced.

January 16th, 1869, he was much improved, the glandular swellings were diminished. The treatment was the same, substituting hyoscyamus for the opium and tannin. January 25th, the spleen is much diminished in size, and the patient improved in every way. February 12th, with the change in weather from cold to warm and wet, the lymphatics enlarged. In March the patient had epistaxis. In April, bronchial hemorrhage. The bronchial swellings sometimes diminished, but again increased in size on taking a fresh cold. The Doctor then said the imperfect prepara-

tion of the blood for microscopic examination, and the rapid recovery, may lead some to doubt the correctness of the diagnosis. But, he continued, would not the adoption of the method of diagnosis by exclusion in this instance of extreme enlargement, with the associated pathological condition, strongly indicate leucocythæmia? As regards the objection that might be made to the diagnosis from the early and rapid recovery, it is to be remembered that all authorities do not lay it down that the disease is invariably fatal, but that early treatment may result in recovery. A case of Professor Wood, of Philadelphia, was then read, in which the patient, though extremely anemic, œdematous and feeble, yet fully recovered. At the conclusion of the report,

Dr. J. V. LANSING moved that Dr. Davis be requested to keep the patient under observation, and at some future meeting present his spleen to the Society.

Dr. J. V. Lansing then reported the case of Ellen Liston, aged nineteen, who was admitted to the hospital March 5th, 1869. Body tolerably well nourished, countenance pale, expression anxious, skin sallow and unhealthy looking; complained of inability to retain food, and headache.

Had two chills on the day of admission, and two on each of the three or four succeeding days. Subsequently, chills about once a day; then every other day for a week; then at intervals of three or four days, with an intermission of one week. During the last week of her life she had them every day. She died April 1st. She had frequently attacks of vomiting of greenish biliary matter; she complained of excessive pain at various times in the right shoulder and different parts of the thorax. The tongue, on admission, was red and shining, and remained so. The pulse was full and strong—one hundred and twenty, never below a hundred. The bowels were constipated; the lungs were healthy, as was the heart, although its action was somewhat violent.

While under Dr. Newcomb's care, for the five weeks

previous to her admission to the hospital, she had a chill every other day, and an abscess, which discharged from her right ear. The temperature, as noted by him, varied from 106° to 97° on different days. The diagnosis was pyæmic fever. The treatment was a supporting one.

The post-mortem examination was held twelve hours after death. The spleen was enormously enlarged. Upon cutting through it, points of pus could be seen. On opening the pericardium a small amount of fluid was found in it.

The Society then adjourned.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *April* 27, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, April 27, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Babcock, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, James S. Bailey, Wm. H. Bailey, Boulware, Craig, Devol, E. R. Hun, Lamb, Lansing, L. Moore, Porter, Quackenbush, Sabin, Stevens, Van Derveer, Wilson.

Also, the following members of the Assembly: Drs. W. H. Carpenter, Geo. Cook, Samuel Mitchell, J. L. La Moree; and Drs. C. S. Hoyt, Secretary to the Commission of Public Charities; Calhoun, of Delhi, Delaware county; Hopkins, of Keyesville, Vt.

Dr. Andrew Wilson, the Treasurer of the Society, asked whether the charges for refreshments for the evening meetings should be paid out of the general fund, or from the fund which had been subscribed for that specific purpose, and which had been partially collected?

Dr. J. V. P. Quackenbush offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay to Mr. Alexander his charges for refreshments and services, whenever bills are presented to him.

Resolved, That the Treasurer collect the amount subscribed for defraying the expenses of the evening meeting, on the subscription paper circulated by Dr. Stevens, as chairman of the committee on that business.

Carried.

Dr. WM. H. CRAIG offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Society present to Mr. Alexander $20, for his services in preparing the entertainments at the evening meetings.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey being indisposed, was excused from reporting his cases of puerperal fever, announced for the meeting.

Dr. A. VAN DERVEER then reported a case of epithelial cancer. He said: Mrs. F., aged 80, usually enjoyed good health. About five years ago, there appeared upon the forehead, a roughened, raised spot of skin, of a brownish color. It itched constantly, and at times was severely painful. This continued so for two years, when ulceration appeared and rapidly spread, requiring the removal of the diseased portion, which was done by the late Dr. Pomfret, June 25th, 1866. The parts healed rapidly, and remained well until August, 1868, when the itching and pain returned. Her scalp would swell rapidly at times, and assumed the appearance of erysipelas.

Ulceration soon occurred, and rapidly spread. Various remedies were given internally, and the inspissated juice of oxalis acetasella applied externally. She took, during three months, a quart each day of Missisquoi water, and applied it externally. During the treatment her appetite became poor, her body became enfeebled, and the cancer increased in size. Powdered opium applied to the cancer relieved the pain, but constipated the bowels. Feb. 15, the doctor removed the diseased mass, and sufficient of the surrounding well tissue to insure a healthy union of the parts. The wound was dressed with lint, wet with a dilute solution of carbolic acid. Her general condition rapidly improved, and April 7th the parts had healed, and she is now free from all pain.

Dr. G. T. STEVENS remarked, that he supposed that the

juice of the wood sorrel acted as does acetic acid, which he had used with success in a number of cases of cancer; the ulcer healing under its influence and remaining so for a considerable time, afterwards breaking out as before.

Dr. R. H. Sabin then reported a case of miscarriage, without pain, occurring on the third month; the fœtus was exhibited.

He also spoke of a case of a woman who had a warty growth on vagina, about three inches in diameter. He ligated it around its base and removed it; the woman had stricture of the rectum, which had been cut and dilated six times. The vagina was filled with hard cartilaginous masses. In the rectum the stricture was now nearly closed; eight or nine inches above the arms was an ulcerated spot, from which bloody matter escaped when it was pencilled. He had been advised to lay open the canal and remove the diseased part, but he doubted the propriety of such a proceeding, and asked for the opinion of the members as to the nature of the disease, and the proper treatment to be adopted.

Dr. A. Van Derveer reported a case where a splinter of wood, about one inch and a quarter in length, had been swallowed, and lodged in the rectum; about four inches above the anus had produced ulceration, and eventually caused death.

A number of cases were afterwards mentioned by different gentlemen, where articles of considerable size had been swallowed. Among others, artificial teeth, attached to a plate, fish bone, an umbrella tip, a tin whistle, etc., a part of which occasioned no trouble, and a number of which, after passing though the whole course of the intestines, were finally recovered.

Dr. Wesley M. Carpenter, of Madison county, reported the following case which came under his personal observation:

A soldier on Staten Island was taken sick with pneumonia; during his illness he said to his surgeon, that four-

teen years before a man fired at him from behind, and the ball entered the back part of his shoulder. On the post-mortem examination a half ounce ball was found lodged in the right ventricle. It had laid there so long a time that the tissue had almost closed over it.

The Society then adjourned.

CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

ALBANY, *May* 11, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Tuesday, May 11th, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

Dr. JAMES L. BABCOCK, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, BOULWARE, BECKETT, JAS. S. BAILEY, CASE, DEVOL, GREGORY, E. R. HUN, FOWLER, FREEMAN, LANSING, LEWI, LAMB, J. MCNAUGHTON, J. S. MOSHER, MCMURDY, J. W. MOORE, NORTHROP, QUACKENBUSH, WINNE, WILSON and VAN DERVEER.

By invitation: Drs. C. S. Hoyt and Hopkins, and Mr. Reed, a medical student.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. E. R. HUN reported a case of "Extra Uterine Fœtation, with Rupture of the Cyst." Internal hemorrhage, followed by death six hours after rupture. April 29th, Mrs. Haas, aged thirty-five years, German, married, has one child, lived on a farm near Albany. Three weeks ago her husband left her, taking with him all the property, and bidding her to come to Albany to rejoin him. She came but could find no trace of him. After being thus abandoned she returned to the country and there remained until yesterday, April 28th, when she again came to town, hoping to hear some news of her husband. She first went to a house in Broad street, and was there advised to go to No. 42 Clinton street, where she was told she might find a place.

She walked from one house to the other, a distance of several blocks, carrying her trunk on her head, and seemed in quite good health. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon she was seen on the stoop of No. 42 Clinton street, by some person who exchanged some words with her. No one seemed to have noticed her from this time until six o'clock, when a neighbor came in from next door and said that she had seen a woman lying in the yard (No. 42 Clinton street) at the foot of the back steps, and apparently in much pain. One of the men in the room went out and found Mrs. Haas lying on her right side upon some flag stones at the foot of a flight of steps. He carried her to a room on the second floor, when it was proposed to send her to the Alms House Hospital, but she requested to be left alone, saying that she knew she was dying. Dr. Heinze was set for and found her in a state of collapse, from which she could not be aroused. Death took place about midnight, April 30th. Autopsy ten hours after death.

External appearance.—Body well nourished. Abdomen moderately tumid and dull on percussion. Rigor well marked. No external marks of injury about the head or body.

Thorax.—Old and firm adhesions of the lower lobe of the left lung to the costal pleura. No trace of pulmonary disease of any kind. Heart weighed three-fourths of a pound, and its tissue and valves were normal. About half an ounce of serum in the pericardium.

Abdomen.—Upon opening the peritoneal cavity, it was found to contain over a gallon of fluid or clotted blood. Directly over the uterus, and partially enveloping it, was a large dark clot, which being removed, a fœtal head, enclosed in its membranes, was seen to have escaped what appeared to be the right anterior portion of the fundus uteri. The kidneys, liver and spleen appeared healthy, except that they were remarkably exsanguinated. The bladder was empty.

Brain and cord were not examined.

The uterus and contents were removed; and upon subsequent examination it was found that:

First.—The fœtus was contained in the dilated right fallopian tube, and occupying that portion of the tube just external to the uterine wall.

Second.—The rupture occurred at the portion of the tube farthest from the uterus.

Third.—The fœtus was a male and had reached about three and a half months of intra-uterine development.

Fourth.—The membranes were not ruptured.

Fifth.—The placenta was attached to that portion of the cyst nearest the uterus.

Sixth.—A probe could be passed from the right corner of the uterus through the pervious fallopian tube into the cavity containing the fœtus.

Seventh.—The uterus was developed to such an extent as to measure five inches in length by four inches in width.

Eighth.—The uterus contained a deciduous membrane, and its cervix was filled with glairy mucus.

Ninth.—The left ovary and corresponding fallopian tube were normal in appearance, except a small cyst which was developed in the ovary. The right ovary was lost in removing the mass from the body.

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY stated that this was the first case of the kind that he had ever had the opportunity to examine. He had reported the case of Mrs. Eddy to the State Medical Society in 1855, and now exhibited the specimen with the following history: The person from which this specimen was taken lived in Frankfort, Herkimer county, New York. She lived to the age of seventy-seven, having carried this extra uterine growth from 1802 to 1852, more than fifty years. She had the usual symptoms of pregnancy, with distinct and increasing motion of the child, until the eighth and a-half months, when she was frightened by the falling of a vessel in the fire as she was cooking. Labor pains came on and continued several hours, and passed away after the full period of pregnancy. Her

health became poor, and she was confined to her bed for a long time with great pain and suffering. After a year and a half she began to improve, and through the remainder of her life had good health, excepting occasional pains in the abdomen. Her catamenia continued natural to the age of forty-five. In her old age she was robust, and able to walk five miles at the age of seventy-six years.

The specimen and cyst weighed eight pounds when removed at the post-mortem examination. The external surface of the cyst was white and polished, like articular cartilage, varying from a quarter' to half, and at some points nearly an inch in thickness. It had no connection with the abdominal walls, but was slightly attached to one lateral ligament, and to the omentum.

The cyst adhered closely to the external surface of the child, and seemed composed of concentric layers of fibro-cartilage, with earthy matter and imperfect cartilage cells. The interior of the child was of a soft substance, like adipose. Dr. A. stated that he had been able to find but three cases of extra uterine conception of more than fifty years.

In the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, volume five, page 104, a fœtus was found in an osseous cyst, retained fifty-two years. In the Philadelphia Transactions, volume five, page 246, a case is related of a woman who carried an extra uterine fœtus twenty-eight years, and during that time had two living children. Sir Philip Shippen reported a case of extra uterine conception, carried twenty years, and then discharged by suppuration from the groin. Pare and Bartholin speak of a case in France in 1582, when a petrified child, as it was called, was removed by Cæsarean section, after remaining in the abdomen twenty years.

This specimen was purchased by the king, Frederick III. of Denmark. In the Royal Society Transactions is a case of a woman who died at the age of ninety-two, having carried an ossified fœtus forty-eight years. In 1855, when I reported this case to the State Medical Society, I

found seventy-five published cases where the fœtus was retained beyond the usual time, as follows:

In 2,	retained	3	months.	In 2,	retained	11	years.
1	"	4	"	1	"	13	"
1	"	5	"	2	"	14	"
2	"	9	"	1	"	16	"
3	"	15	"	1	"	21	"
2	"	16	"	1	"	22	"
2	"	17	"	2	"	26	"
7	"	18	"	1	"	28	"
5	"	1	year.	1	"	31	"
8	"	2	"	1	"	33	"
7	"	3	"	2	"	35	"
4	"	4	"	1	"	48	"
1	"	5	"	1	"	50	"
2	"	6	"	1	"	52	"
3	"	7	"	1	"	55	"
1	"	9	"	1	"	56	"
3	"	10	"				

I looked carefully through the museums of Europe for specimens like this, but have never found one authentic specimen so perfect as this.

Dr. E. R. HUN stated that Dr. Beach finds extra uterine fœtation a frequent cause of death, in post-mortem.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH spoke of Cazeaux's division of pregnancy into normal and abnormal, or extra uterine. The latter subdivided into ovarian, tubo-abdominal, utero-tubal, utero-tubo-abdominal, and abdominal pregnancy. The abdominal was not considered so dangerous as some of the other forms of extra uterine pregnancy. In abdominal pregnancy, death of the child results after rupture of the cyst, and it then undergoes transformation. The maternal system becomes accustomed to the condition or change. It is very difficult to diagnose a case of extra uterine pregnancy. If the diagnosis is made out positively, then the proper treatment is to destroy the growth. The best way of accomplishing this is to bleed the woman until the child dies from a want of proper circulation of blood. Dr. Q. believed Dr. Hun's case to be one of utero-interstitial pregnancy, cyst contained in the walls or tissue of the uterus. The placenta he believed to be developed within the uterus itself. If it had been developed within the fallopian tube, then the latter ought to be much longer than natural.

Dr. Armsby said it appeared clear to him, on opening the tube, it was a true case of fallopian pregnancy. There was no trace of fallopian tube on that side, beyond the point of opening. The two horns of the uterus were well seen, one entering into a sack, where the fœtus was found.

Dr. Quackenbush stated that when the ovum is impregnated, it is capable of developing in the peritoneal cavity anywhere. He believed the ovum had the power of attaching itself to any serous membrane.

Dr. E. R. Hun wished to know regarding the deciduous membrane.

Dr. Quackenbush did not believe in deciduous membranes, and stated that obstetrical authors agreed with him, although physiologists do not. He believed the purpose of the deciduous membranes in utero was to hold the ovum so that it might develop at the fundus, and prevent its falling down, causing placenta previæ.

Dr. Van Derveer reported a case of "Lithotomy." Mr. C., aged sixty-nine, flagman. Correct habits, and health good until the present disease attacked him. Was first seen by Dr. U. G. Bigelow, Dec. 22, 1868. The Doctor learned that he had been suffering from some disease of the bladder for the past seven years, and that he had been confined to his bed much of the time during the previous three months. He complained of severe pain across the pubic region, extending through the fundus and neck of the bladder; also of a constant dragging sensation in the perineum. The pain in the neck of the bladder was notably severe after micturition. He complained, in addition, of much pain and of an itching sensation in the glands penis. The bladder was quite irritable, having a desire to urinate frequently. Mr. C. was also troubled with obstinate constipation. He experienced much difficulty in voiding his urine, especially when in a standing posture, the urine then being voided in two or three small streams, or by drops. This difficulty was somewhat avoided by lying on the side, though sometimes this expedient was only partially success-

ful. The urine, when examined, was found to contain mucus streaked with blood; it was also alkaline.

The diagnosis was stone in the bladder, accompanied with chronic cystitis. This was confirmed by a subsequent examination with the sound. At this time his health was so poor, that Dr. B. did not think an operation advisable. The plan of treatment was to invigorate the system, and to remedy the cystitis. This was so far successful, that, on the 3rd inst., he was removed to the Albany City Hospital for an operation.

On May 4th, his condition being favorable, ether first, then chloroform was administered by Dr. Lansing, and Dr. V. performed the lateral operation, assisted by Drs. McNaughton, Armsby and Bigelow. The bladder was easily entered; the calculus was found in the inferior portion, just below the neck of the bladder, partially encysted; it could be grasped by the forceps without much difficulty. From the great size of the stone, it became necessary to enlarge the opening into the right lobe of the prostate; considerable force was required in removing it. There was little hemorrhage following the operation. The patient came out from the influence of the anæsthetic very nicely, although Dr. V. had some fears in giving it, there being such a decided atheromatious condition of the arteries. The urine passed out through the wound within a few hours. Patient's condition was all that could be wished for until the third day, when he had a severe chill; yet he soon recovered from its depressing effects. On the fifth day he passed his urine, for a short time, through his urethra. During the morning of the seventh day he had another severe chill, and did not rally so nicely as from the first one. The parts about the wound looked well, except some slight sloughing near the rectum. It is now the eighth day since the operation; he is able to take freely of his nourishments and tonics, and seems quite comfortable.*

* Patient died soon after.—ED.

The calculus measured eight inches and a quarter in its long circumference, and six inches and three-quarters in its shortest. It weighed nearly six ounces, and seems to be composed of the oxalate of lime.

Dr. Alexander referred to the use of tonics, and presented a specimen called elixir calisaya, with iron aud bismuth, prepared by Mr. Sautter, which he believed to be superior to Nichols' or any other preparation.

Dr. Beckett related the history of a case of twins, in which one child was born, and the other presenting at the navel when he arrived at the house. The cord was twice around the neck of the latter, which condition he soon relieved, and found, after delivery, two hard knots of the cord evidently of long standing; the children were doing well.

Dr. Alexander had seen a case where the cord was tied in a hard knot near the middle, and the child had all the appearance of having been dead some time.

Dr. Van Derveer presented a pathological specimen of disease of the heart, consisting of adhesion of two of the tricuspid valves to the walls of the right ventricle. There was marked hypertrophy of the right auricle and of the walls of the right ventricle. The other valves of the heart presented a natural appearance. There was decided congestion of the lungs, liver, stomach and spleen; also fatty degeneration of the kidneys. The patient had been under the care of Dr. Devol, who stated that for the past six weeks he had great difficulty in breathing. Congestion of the lungs marked, and dyspnœa very troublesome, causing sleepless nights and great restlessness during the day. He vomited very freely; sounds of the heart muffled; treatment not availing, the patient thought he had relief. Died from want of nourishment.

The President desired to take this opportunity of informing the members that this would be the last of the stated meetings. He felt greatly indebted to the Society for the interest they had manifested in the meetings, not only

regarding the cases of great interest that had been reported, but also for the rare and valuable pathological specimens that had been presented. By their united earnest efforts, he believed they had caused this County Society to take rank with any sister Society in the country. He would give to each one his sincere and heartfelt thanks.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

A. VAN DERVEER, *Secretary pro tem.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 8, 1869.

The Society met the Common Council chamber, City Hall Tuesday, June 8th at 3 P. M.

Dr. JAMES L. BABCOCK, President, in the chair.

The following members of the Society were present:

Drs. BABCOCK, J. S. BAILEY, BECKETT, BOULWARE, CASE, DUNKELMEYER, FONDA, FREEMAN, E. R. HUN, LAMB, J. S. MOSHER, PORTER, SABIN, VANDERPOEL, VAN DERVEER, WILSON.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved.

There being no business before the meeting, the Society adjourned.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *June* 18, 1869.

The Society met in accordance with the notice issued June 17th, to meet at the City Hospital, June 18th, at one o'clock P. M., to take proper action in relation to the death of Dr. Alden March.

Dr. JAMES L. BABCOCK, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. O. C. ALEXANDER, G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY,

Babcock, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Beckett, Bendell, Boulware, Boyd, Case, Craig, Dunkelmeyer, Edmeston, Fonda, Fowler, Freeman, Gregory, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Lamb, McMurdy, J. McNaughton, J. W. Moore, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, Murphy, Myers, Northrop, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Stevens, Thompson, Van Derveer, Wasserbach, C. E. Whitbeck and Wilson.

The President remarked as follows:

Gentlemen—It devolves upon me to announce to you the death of Dr. Alden March, who died in this city yesterday morning at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. David I. Boyd. We are convened to-day to express our sense of this bereavement, and it is meet for us as members of that honorable profession which he loved and adorned, to mingle our tears with those of his relatives, and our demonstrations of respect and regard with the various association to which he belonged; with the city of his residence, and with the public at large. This is not the time to speak in detail of the distinguished deceased. Having practiced his profession almost half a century, he fell full of years and full of honor; conceded to be one of the eminent physicians of the city, of the State and of the nation. His life was a success; he acquired wealth, attained professional eminence, high social position, and maintained an unblemished public and private character. As a surgeon he possessed a skill in diagnosis that led him to correct conclusions, and a firmness of will that made his hand the fit executive of his almost unerring judgment. "The blessings of those that were ready to perish" often fell upon him, whose consummate skill and devoted professional attention had given to them health and years of comfort and of usefulness. In the domestic relations, those who knew him best loved him most. In his life as a citizen, he won our respect and regard; and above all, a life so successful, useful and honored is crowned with the promise of Him whose words cannot fail, "Blessed

are the dead who die in the Lord; for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON then said:

Mr. President—I have been requested to make a few remarks in connection with the mournful event which has called us together.

My heart is too full to give utterance to what I feel on this solemn occasion. The death of such a man as Dr. March, our late associate and lamented friend, is no ordinary occurrence. Few men in this community would be more missed, and few still could be found in the whole State to fill his place in the estimation and confidence of the citizens of Albany. I have known him long and intimately. I preceded him two or three years as a resident of Albany. He came here in 1820. We became early acquainted. In 1821, I was appointed professor of anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of this State, and he began a private course of lectures on anatomy, in this city, the same year. A few years later he was appointed professor of anatomy at Castleton, Vermont. We thus soon became, in some degree, competitors for students, and in some sense rival teachers. I did all I could for my school; he for his. We were both successful. I saw my class increase from fifty-three to two hundred and fourteen. The Castleton school had a class of over one hundred. Both schools were considered flourishing. There was room for both; but when it was proposed to establish a medical college at Albany, and another at Geneva, the case became different. They could not all be supported adequately. I very naturally wanted to protect my school, while my late colleague as naturally wished to get up a school at Albany. This made us for several years take opposite sides in medical politics. But it affords me pleasure to state that this opposition of interest did not interrupt the personal relations between us. We were always on friendly terms. In 1840, I was invited to take the professorship of practice of physic in the Albany

Medical College. Since then our relations have been intimate and cordial, and on occasions of sickness and severe suffering, in my own person, I have experienced at his hands kindness and tenderness like that of a brother.

Many thought my lamented friend rough and unfeeling, but I knew him to be tender and gentle, ever ready to relieve the distressed without the prospect of fee or reward, when others, who affected greater sensibility, like the Levite, would "pass by on the other side." This is not a fit time or place to dwell on the merits of Dr. March as a surgeon or professor; his merits in both capacities are too well known to all present to need any eulogy from me. In all the relations of life he was esteemed and respected.

Dr. James P. Boyd then remarked as follows:

Mr. President—I cannot let this opportunity pass without adding my tribute to the memory of this good and great man, who has left us forever. After what has already been said, and what the whole country know of his professional abilities, it will be wholly unnecessary for me to add a word. I would merely hint at his private character as an example worthy of imitation. Dr. March was a systematic man; he had a place for everything, and everything in its place. He never postponed until to-morrow what could be performed to-day. Often after a late return from professional engagements in the country, tired and weary, he would not retire to rest until all letters and communications received in his absence had been answered. He has often told me that it was his rule to answer all letters immediately on their receipt. He was an economical man. He never contracted a debt until he was prepared to meet it. His rule was to "owe no man anything." He was a benevolent man, not only in giving gratuitous services to the sick, but also in contributing liberally to the great benevolent objects of the day, but especially in giving support to the Gospel of his Saviour, not only in his own church, but he also extended his charities to a perishing world.

If I might be allowed to lift the curtain which concealed his domestic relations, I could reveal the most beautiful, the most amiable traits of his character. It was here that the man, the father, the counselor, the christian, were brought in one beautiful constellation. No one, who only saw Dr. March in the active scenes of life, or in the operating room, could realize the fine sensibilities of his nature as devoted in the bosom of his family.

But the crowning glory of Dr. March's character was his consistent christianity; always punctual and in his place, performing all the external duties pertaining to his christian profession, both in the church and in his family. But he is gone. The profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments, the church a consistent christian, the world a benefactor.

Dr. BARENT P. STAATS then addressed the meeting as follows:

Mr. President—We have assembled here on a mournful occasion, for the purpose of mourning the loss of an eminent brother, and for the purpose of paying respect to his memory. Did I say mourning? Yes; and it is proper that we should mourn on an occasion like this. If our Saviour could comfort Mary and her sister Martha, and weep at the grave of Lazarus, whom he loved, we may certainly be permitted to weep for one whom we so dearly loved and respected. It has been my good fortune to have been intimate with our departed friend, for more than forty years, during which time I have always received from him the most friendly and kindest treatment.

Dr. March was truly the architect of his own Temple of Fame, which temple is one that is not surpassed by any, and will prove a shining monument to the young who seek eminence. He had lived beyond the time allotted to man, yet like Moses at his death, his "eye was not dim, neither was his natural force abated." There are but a few of us who commenced practice at the time when the Doctor commenced, and most, if not all of us, have already passed

the time allotted to man, and do we not, in this sudden and unexpected death, hear the injunction, Be ye also ready ?

Dr. James McNaughton then offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased God to remove by death our venerable and distinguished associate, Alden March, for nearly half a century an ornament to our profession, and a blessing to the community in which he resided:

Resolved, That in his death, while we humbly submit to the decree of the Almighty, we are permitted to express our sorrow that one so dear to us as an associate, friend and adviser has been taken from us forever in this world.

Resolved, That in his life and character as a skillful, devoted and conscientious physician, and as an active, consistent christian, he has left us an example worthy of our imitation.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect due to the memory of our deceased brother, this Society will attend the funeral in a body, and invite other medical men to unite with us, using the customary badge of mourning on the left arm on that solemn occasion.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings, together with an assurance of our sympathy and condolence, be transmitted to the family of the deceased, entered on our minutes, and published in such papers as our Secretary may direct.

Dr. Barent P. Staats moved that the Secretary be directed to procure a proper number of suitable badges for the use of the Society. Carried.

Dr. Sabin stated that he and other medical gentlemen present would be pleased to learn something of Dr. March's sickness; whereupon

Dr. James McNaughton gave a brief account of the symptoms and post-mortem appearances that were observed.

Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel then offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three members to select a proper person to prepare an oration on the life and services of Dr. Alden March, to be delivered at a fitting time before the Society and citizens of Albany.

The President subsequently appointed as such committee, Drs. S. O. Vanderpoel, James McNaughton and James P. Boyd.

The Society then adjourned.

CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

ALBANY, *November* 9, 1869.

The Society met in the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, November 9, 1869, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Dr. JAMES L. BABCOCK, President, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY, BABCOCK, J. S. BAILEY, WM. H. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CASE, J. F. CROUNSE, DEVOL, DUNKELMEYER, EDMESTON, FONDA, FREEMAN, HEUSTED, E. R. HUN, LAMB, LANSING, LEWI, H. MARCH, MCMURDY, J. MCNAUGHTON, J. W. MOORE, L. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, MURPHY, NEWCOMB, NORTHROP, D. V. O'LEARY, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, SABIN, B. P. STAATS, P. P. STAATS, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VANDERPOEL, VAN DERVEER, C. E. WHITBECK and WILSON.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting were read and approved.

The SECRETARY reported that he received in July a communication from Dr. Paul Schoeppe, Carlisle, Pa., who was convicted of the murder of Miss Stennecke, and who was sentenced to be hung. That Dr. Schoeppe also forwarded to him a hypothetical case for the action of the Society.

The SECRETARY stated that he had received a communication from Dr. J. C. Morton, Secretary of the New York Medico-Legal Society, and a copy of the New York Medical Gazette, containing report of the committee of the above-named Society on Schoeppe's case, together with a petition for the pardon of Schoeppe.

On motion of Dr. VADERPOEL, the case was referred to

Dr. Porter, Secretary, for report at the next monthly meeting of the Society.

The Secretary then read a communication from a committee of the King's County Medical Society regarding the position and emoluments of the medical officers of the U. S. Navy, together with a petition designed to be signed by the members of the medical profession and to be forwarded to Congress, asking that the medical officers of the navy have a position and pay corresponding with the important service they perform as members of an educated and honorable profession.

The admission of new members being in order, the reports of the Censors was called for, but none was forthcoming.

Dr. C. D. Mosher moved, that in the absence of a report from the Censors, Dr. John Babcock be elected a member. Carried.

Dr. A. Wilson moved, that in the absence of the same report, Dr. Hiram Becker be elected a member. Carried.

Dr. J. R. Boulware proposed that the full names and and post-office address of candidates for membership of the Society be given to the Secretary by those making the nomination.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership, viz.:

By Dr. M. M. Lamb: Dr. Estus H. Davis, Albany.

By Dr. E. R. Hun: Dr. Daniel M. Stimson, Albany.

By Dr. A. Van Derveer: Dr. John M. Bigelow, Albany.

By Dr. C. D. Mosher: Dr. Wm. Heinze, Albany.

By Dr. A. Wilson: Dr. E. F. Dean, Guilderland.

The President then delivered the annual address, on "The Life and Services of the late Dr. Alden March."*

At the conclusion of the address, Dr. Barent P. Staats offered the following resolution:

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* Published in the Transactions of the N. Y. State Medical Society, for 1870.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered the President for his able address, and that a copy of the same be presented to the State Medical Society for publication in their Transactions.

Carried.

Dr. STATTS also offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the respect of our late colleague, Dr. A. March, this Society now adjourn, and that the present officers be requested to hold over for another year.

The subject of the resolution was discussed by Dr. B. P. Staats, and by Drs. J. R. Boulware, S. O. Vanderpoel, and C. D. Mosher who opposed it.

On motion of Dr. J. R. BOULWARE, the above resolution was tabled.

The Society then proceeded to ballot for officers.

On motion, Drs. C. P. Staats, H. S. Case, and A. A. Edmeston were appointed tellers to collect and canvass the ballots for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

On motion, Dr. E. R. Hun was appointed teller to collect and canvass the ballots for Censors.

The following gentlemen were elected officers:

Dr. William H. Craig, *President.*

Dr. C. D. Mosher, *Vice President.*

Dr. C. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

Dr. Andrew Wilson, *Treasurer.*

Drs. Charles A. Robertson, J. R. Boulware, J. P. Whitbeck, J. F. Crounse, and Amos Fowler, *Censors.*

On motion it was

Resolved, That the President and Secretary of the Society be empowered to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association at its next meeting, such members of the county Medical Society as deserve the honor and intend to be present at the meeting,

The Society then adjourned.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *December*, 13, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, on Monday, December 13th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, Babcock, J. S. Bailey, Boulware, Case, Craig, Devol, Freeman, Gregory, E. R. Hun, Lamb, Lansing, H. March, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Newcomb, Northrop, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Quackenbush, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Stevens, Thomson, Van Derveer, Wilson and Winne.

Also, Drs. Estus H. Davis, D. M. Stimson, Wm. Heinze, W. G. Wheeler, and Tiffany of Collinsville, Conn.

Dr. C. D. Mosher reported a case of gunshot wound, interesting from the course which the ball took. A boy discharged one barrel of a small revolver at the head of another boy aged twelve years, who was standing in front and a little to the left of him. The distance of the barrel of the revolver from the party who received the shot was about one foot. The ball passed into the left cheek at an angle of forty-five degrees, and struck the second molar of the lower jaw, shattering it into three pieces, one of which remained *in situ*, the remaining two were carried into the mouth. An abrasion was observed on the side of the tongue, corresponding to the inner opening of the cheek, a little posterior to and beneath the frænum linguæ. There was an opening extending from side to side of the tongue, which opening could be penetrated by a probe; the right side of the mouth was not wounded.

The ball thus entered the cheek at an angle of forty-five degrees, had struck the molar, and apparently passed forward, and then at right angles across the tongue posterior to, and below the frænum linguæ. There was an

extensive hemorrhage from the injury to the soft parts. The patient rapidly recovered.

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY, after remarking upon the history of Lithotripsy, exhibited a variety of instruments for performing the operation, stating the advantages and disadvantages of each. He also exhibited a number of instruments for washing out the bladder, and others for removing fragments of calculi from the bladder and from the urethra.

In operating recently on an old man aged seventy years, he used Thompson's instrument. After its introduction into the bladder the calculus was seized, not at its center, but at one end; when pressure was applied, the stone slipped and the instrument became bent; the instrument was withdrawn, straightened and again inserted, when it was used successfully. The large fragments first produced were broken into small ones and then extracted. In a second case the crushing was repeated four times.

Dr. E. R. HUN reported a case of "Tubular Disease of the Kidney." F. T. H., aged thirty-five years, married, three children. Had cough and frequent and painful micturition. Tubercular softening under right scapula. Urine albuminous, contained pus, renal casts, granular mat. ter and small granular corpuscules. Nov. 28th, had a severe attack of hæmoptysis. Nov. 30th, hemorrhage had ceased, but urinary troubles remained the same. Dec. 10th, failing rapidly, cough remains the same and no change with regard to the urinary troubles. Dec. 16th, died.

Autopsy—Twenty-four hours after death.

Body—Emaciated; skin sallow; no œdema.

Throax—Tubercular cavities at apices of both lungs; both lungs in third stage of tubercular pneumonia; no cardiac disease.

Abdomen—Right kidney enlarged and lobulated; upon section it was found to consist of a mere shell of cortical substance, while the pyramids were replaced by a soft mass resembling brain substance, and consisting of tubercular matter; the left kidney was enlarged, and contained small

deposits of tubercular matter; the bladder was small and contracted, and two large empty abscesses were found in the prostate gland; the gall bladder contained a small calculus; other organs normal.

Dr. E. R. Hun also reported the following case: Male, aged twenty-nine; married, childless. September 28th, 1868, complained of painful, frequent and difficult micturition; general health fair; unine contained pus in large amount. He remained under the Doctor's care until December 10, 1869, when he died. During his illness he constantly suffered with his urinary difficulty. No kind of treatment, general or local, affected the disease. Never found any gravel, or could a calculus be detected by the sound. He gradually failed from exhaustion and loss of sleep. A short time previous to death he had great pain in the region of the kidneys, and incessant vomiting.

Autopsy—Twenty-four hours after death.

Body—Emaciated; no œdema.

Thorax—Firm, adherent cicatrices at apex of each lung.

Abdomen—Bladder small and thickened, with hardened elevations of mucous membrane; right ureter pervious; the left not; right kidney enlarged, measuring seven by three and a half inches; left kidney enlarged, lobulated, and its tissue replaced by a thick creamy substance, consisting of tubercular matter. The kidneys were exhibited to the Society.

Dr. J. R. Boulware presented a specimen of "Primary Cancer of the Liver," with the following history: Female, aged fifty-two years, confined to the house four weeks; complained but little of pain; had but little or no derangement of the gastric or intestinal functions. A jaundiced tint of the skin commenced three weeks before death, and continued to increase in intensity during life; had a swelling on the left side of the epigastric region, which was tender and painful on pressure. Was but little emaciated, which the Doctor remarked was unusual, when death was the result of cancerous disease. There was one inch of

fat in the abdominal walls; the omentum, mesentery and kidneys were loaded with fat; in the peritoneal cavity there was a quart of bloody serum; the liver weighed between eleven and twelve pounds; its tissue was almost wholly transformed into an irregular nodulated cancerous mass, which encroached upon the thoracic cavity, pushing the diaphragm and lung upwards, until the upper border of the liver extended as far up as the third rib, interfering materially with the functions of the right lung. The left lung was bound to the thoracic walls by old pleuritic adhesions; the cancerous nodules of the liver varied in size from a hen's egg to that of a man's fist; they were isolated, rounded in form, and embedded in the substance of the organs. (Authors state that primary cancerous growths of the liver are commonly isolated.) The nodules, on section, were soft, and presented a dull, white color; some were interspersed with apoplectic clots of blood; the portal vein was completely filled with cancerous matter of brain-like consistence, and of a greyish white color; branches of the hepatic veins were free from cancerous infiltration; all other organs appeared healthy; the mesenteric glands were normal in size, and free from disease.

Dr. B. P. STAATS moved that a committee be appointed by the President to investigate and report upon the origin of the "Cardiff Giant." Carried.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. B. P. Staats, C. Devol and L. Moore.

Dr. C. DEVOL protested against his being placed upon the committee, but a vote of the Society being taken, he was not excused.

A discussion then followed regarding the appearance and nature of the Cardiff giant, the propriety of its exhibition, etc.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. James S. Bailey, and, through him, to Dr. Westcott, for furnishing to the members of the Society tickets of admission to the Cardiff giant. Carried.

The President remarked, that the Secretary of the Society had written to the President of the Board of Governors of the Hospital, regarding the use of a portion of the building for holding their meetings, and, in reply, the President of the Board had informed the Secretary that it would be agreeable to the Governors, for the Society to hold their meetings at the Hospital at such times as they pleased.

It was then moved that the Society hold their meetings at the Hospital on Monday evening, every two weeks.

The motion was amended, that the Society hold their meetings after December, on the first and third Monday evenings of each month. Carried.

The Society then adjourned.

Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

Albany, *December* 27, 1869.

The Society met at the City Hospital, on Monday evening, December 27th, 1869, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig, President, in the chair.

Members present:

Drs. J. H. Armsby, Babcock, J. S. Bailey, Wm. H. Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Case, Craig, J. M. Davis, Devol, Dunkelmeyer, Edmeston, Ferguson, Fowler, Freeman, Gregory, Haskins, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Lansing, McMurdy, C. D. Mosher, Northrop, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Thompson, Vanderpoel and Winne.

Also, Drs. John M. Bigelow. W. Heinze and W. G. Wheeler.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Dr. John M. Bigelow presented a specimen of "Bilateral Dropsy of the Fallopian Tubes," with the following

history: The woman from whom the specimen was taken was aged twenty-nine years; married eight years; had two children; the youngest five years of age; she was not pregnant. On Saturday, October 31, 1869, the Doctor first saw her; had precursory symptoms of typhoid fever; after three weeks of severe illness became convalescent. Owing to the inadvertence of her attendants, she was then allowed to sit up, and was exposed to a draft of air; pneumonia of the lower lobe of the left lung set in; she died eight days after (December 5th); during her whole life she had menstruated regularly; during her last illness the flow was somewhat scanty, and then resembled bloody serum; for four or five months previous to her last illness, she had complained of a tired, aching, dragging pain in the small of the back, and in the lower part of the abdomen, accompanied by a sense of weight; she menstruated about eight days before her decease. *Autopsy*, December 6th. Besides the usual lesions of typhoid fever, and the presence of hepatized lung, dropsy of the fallopian tubes was discovered. The interesting features of the specimen exhibited, consisted in the occurrence of the dropsy in both tubes; one sac was ruptured while conveying the specimen to the Doctor's office. A microscopic examination revealed an abundance of pus cells. The pus was sanious and unhealthy.

Dr. C. H. PORTER, as directed by the Society at its annual meeting, presented a report of the case of *The People v. Paul Schoeppe.* Schoeppe was indicted and convicted of the murder of Miss Maria M. Stennecke, by poisoning her. The trial took place at Carlisle, Pa., May, 1869. Dr. Porter regarded the conviction as not warranted by the testimony: 1st. Because the symptoms corresponded with those observed in some forms of fatal disease of the kidneys. 2d. Because the post-mortem examination was incomplete, and was not carried to such an extent as to permit us to say that death did not result from natural causes. 3rd. Because the chemical examination was im-

properly made, and offered no satisfactory evidence that prussic acid had been taken by the deceased. The report concluded as follows:

While it may be fairly allowed that Dr. Schoeppe had a plausible motive for the commission of the alleged crime, it seems but reasonable to ask, either that he may be pardoned, or that his case may be tried in such a manner that his conviction be not obtained until it is first proven that a crime has been committed, and, next, that he committed it; facts which it may be frankly stated we cannot regard as having been proven at the time.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey, for Dr. S. O. Vanderpoel, then presented a series of resolutions, which, as amended on motion of Dr. J. S. Mosher, were passed unanimously.

The following are the resolutions:

Whereas, At the annual meeting of this Society, held Nov. 9th, 1869, a committee was appointed to present a report of the case of Dr. Paul Schoeppe, convicted of murder of Miss Maria M. Stennecke, by poisoning her; and,

Whereas, The committee, after carefully examining the testimony given at the trial, has presented a report of the case to the Society, including a full statement of the medical and chemical evidence:

Resolved, That after a careful consideration of the case, we are led to the firm conviction that there is no satisfactory evidence that Miss Stennecke came to her death by other than natural causes.

Resolved, That we deem it our duty, as a Medical Society, to officially present our views to the Governor of Pennsylvania, asking either that he may pardon Schoeppe of the crime of which he has been legally convicted, or that he may be tried in such a manner that his conviction may not be obtained until it is first proven that a crime has been committed, and, next, that he committed it.

Dr. R. H. Sabin presented a specimen of "Caneer of the Pyloric Orifice of the Stomach," with the following history: Mr. ——, aged 71 years, during the last spring found his health failing. The Doctor was called in, and administered alteratives and tonics, under which treatment he improved and was in fair health through the summer. Oct. 27th, consulted several physicians. His skin was then of a peculiar white tint; two weeks after, it assumed a yellowish

color. Typhoid symptoms soon after manifested themselves, which continued until his death, six weeks after. During his sickness there was no vomiting, there being a sufficient opening in the pylorus to allow the contents of the stomach to pass out. The stomach contained a considerable quantity of a substance resembling coffee grounds; it was adherent posteriorly, but not anteriorly. The liver weighed four and three-quarter pounds; cancerous masses were found disseminated through both lungs.

Dr. C. A. ROBERTSON reported the following case of "Diagnosis of constitutional disease (Bright's disease of the kidneys), by means of the Ophthalmoscope:"

Mrs. A——, in January, 1866, consulted a physician, on account of some failure of the vision. Observing a certain puffiness about the eyelids, he made pointed enquiries as to her kidneys; but the patient declined to give any information upon that subject, and returned to her family physician, who seemed to regard any affection of the kidneys as out of the question. One year after, she consulted a surgeon, who diagnosed the difficulty as soft cataract of the right eye, and operated upon her with a cataract needle to bring about solution. This needling was repeated four times; inflammation was excited. As this continued, she again visited the operating surgeon; he observed a cataractous lens in the anterior chamber; a linear operation with iridectomy was done for its removal. She finally came under Dr. Robertson's charge. For a long time he simply combated inflammation and pain. After a time a staphylomatous condition of the cornea made its appearance, when the surgeon who had before treated her made an abscission of the cornea. A few weeks since the Doctor was asked to operate for cataract on the left eye, the sight of which had been gradually failing since the right eye was lost. The eye was examined with the ophthalmoscope; there was no cataract, but some cataractous degeneration of the posterior surface of the lens, and the choroid and retina showed unmistakable marks of fatty degeneration. The urine was

found to contain great quantities of albumen; also uriniferous tube casts and epithelial scales. Two weeks Wednesday she died. On the Monday before her death, she was seized with mania; she was delirious on Sunday, but could be aroused. The secretion of urine was diminished in quantity on the last Monday of her life, and was completely suppressed after Sunday evening.

Dr. A. B. Heusted, in behelf of Mrs. Pomfret (the widow of Dr. James E. Pomfret), presented to the Society a wax cast of the forearm and hand of Major C. H. Hobbs, 7th Regiment N. Y. H. Artillery, who was wounded at Cold Harbor, Va., June 3d, 1863, by three gunshot balls. Primary excision was performed by Surgeon J. E. Pomfret; two inches of the distal extremity of the ulna were removed, with the fractured bones of the carpus and metacarpus, and three outer fingers. Recovery was complete two weeks after the operation. The remaining portion of the radio-carpal articulation was not anchylosed, and the movements of the thumb and forefinger were unimpaired. [See Circular No. 6, Surgeon General's office, 186.]

Dr. A. A. Edmeston moved that the specimen be accepted, and that the thanks of the Society be presented to Mrs. Pomfret for the contribution to the collection of the Society. Carried.

Dr. Charles Devol presented to the Society a specimem of calcined bone, of the omentum, a gall stone and a beetle.

Dr. J. L. Babcock moved that the specimens be accepted, and that the thanks of the Society by presented to Dr. Devol. Carried.

A call was made for the report of the committee on the Cardiff giant. The chairman being absent, no report was made.

A motion was made and seconded, that the committee on the Cardiff giant be relieved from further duty.

The question being voted upon, was decided in the negative. The Society declined to relieve the committee from reporting on the matter.

Dr. J. V. P. QUACKENBUSH briefly referred to a case of "Rupture of the Uterus," which occurred in a patient of Dr. J. V. Lansing, and afterwards made some comments on Placenta Prævia.

A motion was made and seconded that Dr. Quackenbush address the Society at its next meeting on the subject of Placenta Prævia. Carried.

It was then resolved that the next meeting of the Society be held on the second Monday, the 10th day of January.

The Society then adjourned.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *January* 10, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital Monday, Jan. 10th at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. WM. H. CRAIG, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following members were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, G. H. ARMSBY, J. H. ARMSBY, J. S. BAILEY, W. H. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CASE, CRAIG, FREEMAN, GREGORY, HASKINS, E. R. HUN, LAMB, LANSING, J. MCNAUGHTON, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, NEWCOMB, D. V. O'LEARY, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, SABIN, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VANDERPOEL, VAN DERVEER and WILSON.

Also, Drs. E. H. Davis, D. M. Stimson, J. M. Bigelow and J. L. LaMoree.

Dr. G. H. ARMSBY reported a case of Hydrophobia. He said that Nov. 25th, he was called to see Mr. Henry Dunn, of 196 Clinton avenue. He was a married man, fifty-eight years of age, of robust constitution. The day previous to the attack he was at work as usual, but complained of feeling ill and of suffering from headache, slight chills, stiffness of the neck, and general weakness. He passed a restless and feverish night. The next morning the Doctor found him in bed with his head raised on pillows. Expression

anxious, breathing laborious, pulse ninety-six, complained of shooting pains in the region of the heart, left side and arm, soreness and a dryness of the fauces. When approached with a tumbler containing liquid, he shrank back trembling and gasping for breath. His attempts to swallow were spasmodic and attended with great distress. The above symptoms grew more and more aggravated during the day. It was ascertained that he had been bitten by a dog in July last, as had also a number of other persons by the same animal, which had been snappish for several days. Morphine, one-fourth grain was given every three hours. During the rest of the day and through the night he was more restless, the tongue dry and feverish, body tremulous, breathing laborious, and the least noise agitating him. The morphine was continned with tinct. chloroform and other stimulants, without inducing quiet. On Friday Drs. J. H. Armsby and J. L. Babcock were called in consultation. Violent spasms followed the administrations of liquids. Bromide of potassium, twenty grains, was given every two hours, with beef tea and brandy. In the afternoon his symptoms became aggravated; at times there was mental derangement. Morphine, one-fourth grain, was given by subcutaneous injection without effect. In the evening he was violent. He was secured, laid upon his bed and placed under the influence of chloroform. Tinct. capsicum and chloroform were repeatedly given him. He was delirious when not under the influence of chloroform; his pulse and respiration became more and more irregular; there was a profuse and constant expectoration of thick frothy mucus. The symptoms gradually became aggravated, and at length he died.

Dr. G. H. Armsby also reported a case of Hydrophobia, occurring in the practice of Dr. J. H. Armsby, in which the symptoms did not appear until eight months after the patient—A. C., a child eight years of age—had been bitten by a dog.

Dr. JAMES S. BAILEY offered the following preamble and resolution.

When a few sentences were read, Drs. J. V. LANSING, J. H. ARMSBY and J. MCNAUGHTON objected to the reading of them at that time. They said, in substance, that it was not the proper time in the order of business for the introduction of resolutions; that the reading of the resolution, with the discussion that would follow, would, apparently, occupy a considerable time, and that when finished there would not probably be sufficient time for the reading of the papers that were announced.

Drs. BOULWARE, W. H. BAILEY and others spoke in favor of the immediate reading of the resolution. The question being put, the Society asked to have the resolution read, which was done by the Secretary.

WHEREAS, The following articles appeared in certain newspapers, printed in the city of Albany, viz.: The Albany *Express* of December 6th, 1869, and the Albany *Argus* of the same date:

"ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—This time-honored institution is now near the close of its thirty-sixth lecture term. The annual commencement will be held on Christmas eve. The number of students in attendance, and the number of candidates for graduation, is as large as the average of many years; and the several courses of lectures have never been more satisfactory and popular. Dr. Armsby is the only surviving member of its original faculty, and is one of the founders of the institution. He was associated with the late lamented Dr. March many years, as a teacher, before the College was established, and has had the sole charge of the department of Anatomy and of the Museum since the foundation of the institution until his promotion to the chair of Surgery. Dr. Armsby's ability as a surgeon, and as a teacher, is universally known and acknowledged. Dr. McNaughton has filled the chair of Medicine in this College more than thirty years, having lectured during twenty years previous at the Medical College in Fairfield. He is the oldest Professor of Medicine in the country, and has a high reputation for skill and learning. The course of lectures during this term has been in the highest degree satisfactory and popular. Indeed, the remark has often been made in the College: "Dr. McNaughton is renewing his age." Dr. Thomas Hun, though long retired from any participation in the active duties of the College, still holds an honorary position in the faculty. The department of physiology, which was given to Dr. Lansing, in addition to his other branch, Materia Medica, has been well sustained. The style of his writing, and his research evinced in his lectures, are spoken of in terms of the highest praise. The College

Museum, now the largest and most valuable in this country, is under the charge of Dr. Henry March, who has been appointed Curator of the Museum and lecturer on the pathological collections of his late distinguished father. Drs. Haskins and Van Derveer, having delivered highly satisfactory courses of lectures during the term, have been unanimously recommended by the faculty to the trustees for professors in the institution. The College Museum is receiving almost daily contributions of great value from its numerous graduates, who cherish a just and lively interest and pride in the prosperity and welfare of the college. It is proposed to hold a reunion of the alumni of the institution during the ensuing summer. Its graduates number between one and two thousand, who are scattered throughout the land. Several letters have been received by the faculty from distinguished members of the alumni, calling for such a meeting, and it is expected that several hundred will assemble on that interesting occasion.

"The graduates of this college are, many of them, holding high and honored positions in professional and public life. Some of them have been so favored by fortune as to be counted among the millionaires of the country. It is proposed, we learn, to make an effort to rebuild or enlarge the college edifice, and thus preserve and perpetuate one of the most ancient land-marks, and one of our most cherished institutions."

"Albany Medical College.—Dr. George T. Stevens and Dr. John M. Bigelow have each received beautiful testimonials from members of the class and faculty of the Albany Medical College in return for the interesting and instructive lectures they have delivered during the present term. Dr. Stevens lectured with great ability on Ophthalmic Surgery. He has received a costly binocular ophthalmoscope. Dr. Bigelow's eloquent lectures on the Reflex Nervous System, evinced much research and elicited much praise. He has received a beautiful and valuable sarynoscope. These two testimonials are worthily bestowed."

Whereas, The publications of these advertisements of several members of this Society might be attributed to the students of the Albany Medical College, had they not as a class, through the public prints, denied any knowledge of the origin of at least one of the said articles, and publicly censured the authors of the same; and,

Whereas, The publication of these advertisements, by or with the consent of the gentlemen named in them, is contrary to medical ethics, and, therefore, reflects not only upon the professional standing of such gentlemen, but also upon the reputation of this Society, with which they are connected; and,

Whereas, It is desirable that the members of this Society advertised in the articles referred to, if innocent, be relieved from suspicion, and if guilty, be reported to the Society, that it may take such action as it may deem advisable, in order to maintain its character and standing, as one governed by the medical ethics of the State Medical Society; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, with directions to ascertain and report to this Society the author or authors of the advertisements above-mentioned; the person or persons who caused them to be published in the said newspapers, and whether the said advertisements were so published with the knowledge or consent of any member of this Society. That the said committee also ascertain and report to this Society whether an attempt was made to have the said articles, or any of a similar nature, published in any other newspapers than those in which the said articles appeared, and if so, that the said committee ascertain and report to this Society the person or persons who made such attempt. That the said committee report upon the matters hereby committed to them with all convenient speed.

[Jan. 15th.—The President appointed the committee, as follows: Drs. James S. Bailey, Charles H. Porter and James L. Babcock.]

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and was lost, by 6 to 10.

Dr. J. V. LANSING moved the following amendment:

That this committee be also charged with the investigation of every article commendatory of any member of this Society, that has appeared in the Albany city papers during the past eighteen months, and report to this Society the author.

Dr. J. R. BOULWARE stated that he was not in favor of the amendment, as it was too general in its character; no specific articles were mentioned, nor was the place and date of any publication given.

Dr. J. V. LANSING replied, that as the resolution has been introduced without notice, he was not able to mention so many articles as he would have done had he had time to prepare himself, but he would mention the following, and embody them in this amendment:

And that the committee also ascertain and report to this Society the author or authors of the following advertisements, the person or persons who carried them to be published, and whether the said advertisements were published with the knowledge or consent of any member of this Society:

An article published in the "Knickerbocker," laudatory of the surgical skill of Dr. E. R. Hun, in successfully operating for cancer of the tongue of more than thirty years standing.

An article published in a New York city paper, complimentary to Dr. Vanderpoel, who was referred to as the "Valentine Mott of Albany."

An article published in the "Albany Express," in which Dr. W. H. Bailey was mentioned as having an extensive practice and great professional ability.

An article published in the "Argus," in which Dr. Boulware was alluded to in complimentary terms as a surgeon.

Dr. J. R. Boulware said, if Dr. Lansing is sincere in what he says he wishes to accomplish, why does he not move that a special committee be appointed to investigate the cases he mentions, instead of making the amendment as he has done? It appeared to him as if Dr. Lansing had not really an honest and sincere desire to have any of these matters looked into, but rather that he wished to prevent the investigation of any. It seemed as if Dr. Lansing thought that there was something covered up which it would be unpleasant for him to have uncovered by the adoption of the original resolution. Since his (Dr. Boulware's) name was mentioned, he felt free to say that he would approve of appointing a special committee to investigate any articles where his name was favorably alluded to, and would prefer to have Dr. Lansing as chairman of such committee, and Dr. Armsby as one of his associates.

Dr. J. H. Armsby said that he had seen Dr. Boulware's name in a newspaper, in connection with surgical cases, while he was absent for two weeks attending a trial at Delhi.

Dr. Boulware replied that he was glad that some one else besides Dr. Armsby was looking after his interest while he was absent from the city.

The amendment of Dr. Lansing being seconded, was voted upon and lost.

Dr. James McNaughton expressed his disapproval of the proceedings in the matter of the resolution offered by Dr. J. S. Bailey; he remarked upon a pamphlet written ostensibly by Dr. Robertson, the publication of which he regarded as the grossest breach of medical ethics which has occurred in this city or country during the last fifty

years, and which pamphlet he believed was written by other persons than Dr. Robertson.

Dr. C. A. ROBERTSON said that he was responsible for the pamphlet to which his name was attached; that not only was it wholly written by himself, but that the idea of it was entirely his own.

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON moved the following amendment: That the pamphlet by Dr. Robertson, and his letter to the Medical Class, be referred to the same committee to report upon.

The amendment being seconded, was voted upon, and was unanimously carried.

Dr. J. V. LANSING moved that all further consideration of the resolution be postponed for two weeks, until the next meeting of the Society.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and lost.

Dr. J. H. ARMSBY called for the ayes and nays. They were taken, as follows:

Ayes—Drs. Alexander, G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, Craig, Gregory, Haskins, Lansing, J. McNaughton, Newcomb, Sabin, Stevens—11.

Nays—J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Boulware, E. R. Hun, Lamb, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, Thompson, Vanderpoel, Wilson—14.

It was then moved and seconded, that the resolution as amended be adopted. Carried.

Dr. J. V. LANSING then read a report of a case of "Placenta Prævia, with Rupture of Uterus," occurring in his practice. December 25th, 1869, he was called to see Mrs. C., aged thirty-three years, of good constitution, then near the close of the ninth month of her third pregnancy. The patient, who was up, moving about the room, stated that on the previous day she had noticed a slight hemorrhage per vagina, and about an hour and a half previous to the Doctor's arrival had had a second hemorrhage, the quantity of blood lost being about a pint. On examina-

tion, the os was not found sufficiently dilated to permit the introduction of the finger. There being no further hemorrhage, nor any indication of commencing labor, the patient was directed to remain in bed, to keep quiet, and to send for the Doctor when he was needed. The next day at noon she was in the same condition. At two o'clock P. M., was informed that she was again flowing. Dr. Quackenbush was sent for at the same time. Dr. Stevens being present with Dr. Lansing at the time of the call, accompanied the latter to the house. Upon arrival, found that the hemorrhage had ceased, the os dilated to nearly the size of a quarter of a dollar. The placenta, or what was thought to be the placenta, could be felt through the os. Dr. Quackenbush confirmed the diagnosis of placenta prævia. While the hand of the latter was in the vagina, he proposed to detach the placenta; he proceeded rapidly to detach and bring away, in fragments, nearly all of the placenta. The cord brought down, with one of the fragments, was severed near its placental attachment; no hemorrhage from the vagina followed the operation at the time, or subsequently.

After an hour, reaction being fully established, the patient expressing herself as feeling comfortable, she was left in Dr. Lansing's charge. Up to 11 P. M., the patient was apparently in a comfortable condition, complaining only occasionally of slight stinging pain up her left side and her back, and occasionally of a pain running around the uterus in front.

At 12½ P. M., labor pains had commenced, and were occurring regularly, the head of the child presenting in the first position. The pains increased in force and regularity up to one o'clock, the head engaging in the upper strait and making progress with the successive pains.

Soon after one o'clock the pains gradually grew less strong, and finally ceased. There was no abrupt termination of them, nor was there any sudden outcry or complaint of anything giving away. At the time when the pains were

strongest, the patient complained of sharp, stinging pains on the left side, and wanted to turn over on the right side. The pains were at one time severe or violent. After the pains ceased, thirty drops of tinct. of ergot was given; she had no pains subsequent to its administration, but soon grew restless; said she felt queer, and apparently was a little nauseated, attributing it to the ergot. Her pulse began to grow weak; her face was pale, and her limbs slightly cool. Warm stimulants were administered without avail. Symptoms of collapse increased; respiration became sighing and irregular; face changed its expression; extremities cool; she died at two A. M., just after the arrival of Dr. Quackenbush, who had been sent for when the labor pains ceased.

Autopsy—Eight hours after death; Drs. Quackenbush, Stevens and Lansing present. The bowels were distended with gas; the peritoneal cavity contained two quarts of liquid blood or bloody serum; the uterus was a little over to the right side, with its fundus in the right hypochondriac region; the feet and body of a good sized, fully developed male fœtus protruded through a lateral fissure, or rent of its wall, laid toward the left hypochondriac region. The fissure extended from the os upwards about five and a half or six inches, longitudinally and posteriorly, to broad ligament. The subperitoneal tissue extending over the lower anterior surface of the uterus and around the cavity of the pelvis on both sides, were deeply discolored and infiltrated with blood.

The bladder was empty. The fundus of the uterus contained the membranes and a portion of the placenta; the head of the child was at the brim of the pelvis, partly engaged and surrounded by the ruptured walls. The tissue of the uterus was normal. Within the cavity of the uterus near the os internum, and not connected with the fissure, were three lacerations of the walls of the uterus, one about an inch in length, and the other about half an inch in length, and in depth from two to three-eighths of an inch.

Dr. Quackenbush then made some remaks on placenta prævia, after which,

The Society adjouined, to meet on the 24th day of January, 1870.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *January* 24, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, January 24th, at 8 o'clock, p. m.

Dr. Wm. H. Craig, President, called the meeting to order.

The following gentlemen were present:

Drs. Alexander, G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Babcock, Beckett, Boulware, Boyd, Bullock, Craig, J. F. Crounse, Devol, Fonda, Fowler, Freeman, Gregory, Haskins, E. R. Hun, Lamb, Lansing, H. March, McMurdy, H. G. McNaughton, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, J. W. Moore, Levi Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Myers, Northrop, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, Smith, B. P. Staats, P. P. Staats, Stevens, Thompson, Van Derveer, Wasserbach, C. E. Whitbeck, Wilson, Winne.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary.

Dr. Stevens moved that the resolution offered by Dr. J. S. Bailey, and all matters appertaining thereto, be erased from the minutes. He believed that it was inexpedient to have the matter left on record, or to have any further proceedings in the case.

Dr. Beckett seconded the motion, and said that it was not wise to bring discord into the Society, as the resolution had done. The meetings were for the purpose of medical improvement; and other matters, if requiring investigation, should be left to the annual or semi-annual meeting.

Dr. J. McNAUGHTON moved that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted, and the committee's report be read.

Dr. BOULWARE seconded the motion, and said that Dr. McNaughton's name appearing in the advertisements, he was under suspicion which ought to be removed, though he, Dr. B., had no idea that the Doctor had written the article.

Dr. B. P. STAATS thought that the whole proceeding in the matter of the resolution ought to be dropped for the sake of peace and harmony in the Society; that the subject was likely to excite ill-feeling among the members, and, he thought, could do no possible good.

The minutes of the last meeting were then adopted.

Dr. PORTER, chairman of the committee on Dr. Bailey's resolution, then read the report of the committee, as follows: He said—

Mr. President—At the last semi-monthly meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held Jan. 10th, the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

WHEREAS, The following articles appeared in certain newspapers, printed in the city of Albany, viz.: The Albany *Express* of December 6th, 1869, and the Albany *Argus* of the same date:

"ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—This time-honored institution is now near the close of its thirty-sixth lecture term. The annual commencement will be held on Christmas eve. The number of students in attendance, and the number of candidates for graduation, is as large as the average of many years; and the several courses of lectures have never been more satisfactory and popular. Dr. Armsby is the only surviving member of its original faculty, and is one of the founders of the institution. He was associatep with the late lamented Dr. March many years, as a teacher, before the College was established, and has had the sole charge of the department of Anatomy and of the Museum since the foundation of the institution until his promotion to the chair of Surgery. Dr. Armsby's ability as a surgeon, and as a teacher, is universally known and acknowledged. Dr. McNaughton has filled the chair of Medicine in this College more than thirty years, having lectured during twenty years previous at the Medical College in Fairfield. He is the oldest Professor of Medicine in the country, and has a high reputation for skill and learning. The course of lectures during this term has been in the highest degree satisfactory and popular. Indeed, the remark has often been made in the College: "Dr. McNaughton is renewing his age." Dr. Thomas Hun, though long retired from any participation in the active duties of the college, still holds an honorary position in the faculty. The department of physiology, which was given

to Dr. Lansing, in addition to his other branch, Materia Medica, has been well sustained. The style of his writing, and his research evinced in his lectures, are spoken of in terms of the highest praise. The College Museum, now the largest and most valuable in this country, is under the charge of Dr. Henry March, who has been appointed Curator of the Museum and lecturer on the pathological collections of his late distinguished father. Drs. Haskins and Van Derveer, having delivered highly satisfactory courses of lectures during the term, have been unanimously recommended by the faculty to the trustees for professors in the institution. The College Museum is receiving almost daily contributions of great value from its numerous graduates, who cherish a just and lively interest and pride in the prosperity and welfare of the College. It is proposed to hold a reunion of the alumni of the institution during the ensuing summer. Its graduates number between one and two thousand, who are scattered throughout the land. Several letters have been received by the faculty from distinguished members of the alumni, calling for such a meeting, and it is expected that several hundred will assemble on that interesting occasion.

"The graduates of this college are, many of them, holding high and honored positions in professional and public life. Some of them have been so favored by fortune as to be counted among the millionaires of the country. It is proposed, we learn, to make an effort to rebuild or enlarge the college edifice, and thus preserve and perpetuate one of the most ancient land-marks, and one of our most cherished institutions."

"Albany Medical College.—Dr. George T. Stevens and Dr. John M. Bigelow have each received beautiful testimonials from members of the class and faculty of the Albany Medical College in return for the interesting and instructive lectures they have delivered during the present term. Dr. Stevens lectured with great ability on Ophthalmic Surgery. He has received a costly binocular ophthalmoscope. Dr. Bigelow's eloquent lectures on the Reflex Nervous System, evinced much research and elicited much praise. He has received a beautiful and valuable saryngoscope. These two testimonials are worthily bestowed."

Whereas, The publications of these advertisements of several members of this Society might be attributed to the students of the Albany Medical College, had they not, as a class, through the public prints, denied any knowledge of the origin of at least one of the said articles, and publicly censured the authors of the same; and,

Whereas, The publication of these advertisements, by or with the consent of the gentlemen named in them, is contrary to medical ethics, and, therefore, reflects not only upon the professional standing of such gentlemen, but also upon the reputation of this Society, with which they are connected; and,

Whereas, It is desirable that the members of this Society advertised in the articles referred to, if innocent, be relieved from suspicion, and if

guilty, be reported to the Society, that it may take such action as it may deem advisable, in order to maintain its character and standing, as one governed by the medical ethics of the State Medical Society; therefore

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, with directions to ascertain and report to this Society the author or authors of the advertisements above mentioned; the person or persons who caused them to be published in the said newspapers, and whether the said advertisements were so published with the knowledge and consent of any member of this Society. That the said committee also ascertain and report to this Society whether an attempt was made to have the said articles, or any of a similar nature, published in any other newspapers than those in which the said articles appeared, and if so, that the said committee ascertain and report to this Society the person or persons who made such attempt. That the said committee report upon the matters hereby committed to them, with all convenient speed. That the pamphlet by Dr. Robertson, and his letter to the Medical College, be referred to the same committee to report upon.

In accordance with the above resolution, the President appointed, January 15th, the following committee: Dr. James S. Bailey, Dr. Charles H. Porter and Dr. James L. Babcock.

The committee met on the evening of the same day and organized. Dr. Porter was made chairman. On Monday, January 17th, the following letters were sent to the gentlemen named below, and delivered to them either personally or to the attendant at their offices:

ALBANY, N. Y., *January* 17, 1870.

Dr. ——: At the last semi-monthly meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held January 10th, a resolution was adopted directing the President to appoint a committee of three to ascertain and report the author or authors of two advertisements that appeared in the Albany *Argus* and *Express* of December 6th, 1869, each entitled "Albany Medical College;" the person who caused them to be published in the said newspapers, and whether the said advertisements were so published with the knowledge or consent of any member of the Society. The said committee also to ascertain and report whether an attempt was made to have the said article, or any of a similar nature, published in any other newspaper than those in which the said articles appeared, and if so, that the said committee ascertain and report to this Society the person or persons who made such attempt. That the pamphlet by Dr. Robertson, and his letter to the Medical College class, be referred to the same committee to report upon.

The President of the Society has appointed as such committee: Drs. James S. Bailey, Charles H. Porter and James L. Babcock.

You will oblige the committee by meeting them at Dr. Porter's office, No. 166 Swan street, on Tuesday, the 18th instant, at — o'clock P. M.,

in order to aid the committee in arriving at the facts which they are directed to report upon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Chas. H. Porter, *Chairman of Committee.*

To Drs. J. H. Armsby, H. B. Haskins, J. V. Lansing, H. March, J. McNaughton, A. Van Derveer, G. T. Stevens, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. S. Mosher, S. O. Vanderpoel and T. Hun.

Drs. J. H. Armsby, H. B. Haskins, J. V. Lansing, H. March and G. T. Stevens did not appear before the committee. The other gentlemen named appeared, and answered such questions regarding the matter under investigation as were addressed to them.

Drs. Hun, McNaughton, Vanderpoel, Mosher and Quackenbush stated that they were not the authors of the whole or any part of either of the advertisements of the pamphlet or of the letter referred to in the resolution; that they had not caused them, or similar articles, to be published, or attempted to have them published, in any newspaper, or in any other form.

Dr. Robertson stated that he was not the author of the whole, or of any part of either of the advertisements referred to in the resolution; that he had not caused them, or similar articles, to be published, or attempted to have them published, in any newspaper, or in any other form. That he was the sole author of the pamphlet and letter referred to; and that he alone caused them to be published—the matter for the pamphlet in the January number of the *New York Medical Journal*, and in pamphlet form; the letter in a single sheet, and that he did not publish, or attempt to have them published, in any newspaper, or in any other form than those above mentioned.

The committee understanding that Dr. J. H. Armsby was absent from the city on the 17th and 18th inst., on the 19th inst. sent him the following communciation, which was delivered to a student of his at his office:

Albany, *January* 19, 1870.

Dr. J. H. Armsby:

Dear Sir—On Monday, January 17th, I left a communication at your office, requesting you to meet the committee appointed to ascertain the party or parties who wrote and caused to be published in the *Express* and *Argus* of December 6th, 1869, two articles, each entitled or referring to the Albany Medical College, a pamphlet and a letter to the medical class by Dr. Robertson, by meeting them at my office, 160 Swan street, on Tuesday, January 18th, at 3 o'clock P. M., in order to aid the committee in arriving at the fact they are directed to report on. As I understand, you were out of town at the time appointed for meeting, I would be obliged if you would designate, as early as possible, a time convenient to yourself when you would meet the committee referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Chas. H. Porter, *Chairman of Committee.*

We will now present the information obtained at the newspaper offices regarding the two advertisements referred to in the resolution. The committee visited the offices of the *Evening Post* and *Evening Times*, and saw the editors of the papers named. In reply to the committee's interrogatories, those gentlemen stated that as far as they could recollect, the two advertisements, the pamphlet and letter, were not published, nor was any attempt made to have them, or similar articles, published in their respective papers.

Mr. John Hastings, Editor of the *Knickerbocker*, stated to the committee that on Sunday evening, December 5th, he found an envelope on his desk which contained the manuscript of the shorter advertisement—the one complimentary of Drs. Stevens and Bigelow, and after examining it he tore it up. He said that he did not know from whom it came, nor did he know of any attempt to have the longer advertisement, the pamphlet or letter, or similar articles inserted in his paper.

Mr. Daniel Manning, Assistant Editor of the *Argus*, stated to the committee that the manuscript for the two advertisements referred to in the resolution, was handed to him on Sunday, December 5th, by a young man whom he did not know. Subsequently a young man came for the manuscript, but he, Mr. Manning, did not give it to him. Some one in the office, enquiring of a gentleman present as to who the young man was, he was informed by the gentleman that it was Mr. Lasher, a student of Dr. Armsby. Mr. Manning stated that no attempt was made to have either the pamphlet or letter referred to, published in the *Argus*.

The committee was informed by Mr. C. E. Smith, Editor of the *Express*, that on Sunday, Dec. 5th, Mr. Lasher, a student in Dr. Armsby's office, tendered the manuscript of the two advertisements to one of the editors of that paper. Reference being made to an article in the *Express* of the December 7th, Mr. Smith stated that the manuscript for it was handed to him by Dr. J. H. Armsby. The article referred to states that the omission of the names of certain gentlemen connected with the Faculty of the Medical College, in the article of the preceding day, was an inadvertence, and Dr. Armsby said he desired to have this inadvertence corrected. Mr. Smith on being questioned, stated that he could not recollect the whole of his conversation with Dr. Armsby, but he received the decided impression that Dr. Armsby was the author of the longer article which was published on the 6th, referring to the Medical College. That he had this impression at the time, is shown by the sentence which he (Mr. Smith) prefaced to the article handed to him by Dr. Armsby, and which appeared in the *Express* of December 7th. The following is the article referred to:

"The article of yesterday on the Medical College was furnished us. From the same source we receive the following, with the request to publish:

"In the notice of the Albany Medical College, in yesterday's issue, the omission of the names of Drs. Quackenbush, Vanderpoel and Mosher from the list of its corps of instructors must not be construed to the damage of

that institution. No names add greater reputation or afford a better guarantee of the high character of the medical instruction given in it than theirs."

On inquiring, it was ascertained that on Sunday, December 5th, and, probably, at the same time that the manuscript of the two articles was handed in at the *Express* office, one hundred copies of the paper of December 6th, in which the two articles appeared, was ordered for Dr. Armsby, and were, subsequently, delivered. That no attempt was made to have either the pamphlet or letter referred to, or similar articles, published in the *Express*.

The committee called at the office of the *Journal* on Monday (January 17th). Mr. S. C. Hutchins, the associate editor, declined to communicate any information regarding any attempt to publish the advertisements referred to in the resolution, until he could consult with the editor, Mr. George W. Demers, it being questionable whether the conveying the desired information was within or without the rule of newspaper ethics, forbidding revelation of the writers of articles appearing, or offered for publication. Upon such consultation, Mr. Demers considered the Society, under the circumstances, entitled to the information.

Mr. Hutchins stated that Drs. Vanderpoel and Mosher called into the office on Monday, December 6th, to prefer a request that the articles referring to the Medical College, which had appeared in the *Argus* and *Express* of that date, be not published, or any other articles relating to the College, during a difficulty that then existed in the faculty, as such publication might injure the institution.

Mr. Hutchins then stated to them the facts mentioned below, considering that their connection with the College entitled them not only to speak in its behalf, but also to have knowledge of transactions which will now be mentioned. Mr. Hutchins then made the following statement: That no attempt was made to have either the pamphlet or letter referred to, or similar articles, published in the *Journal*; that on Saturday morning (eleven o'clock), December 4th, Dr. J. H. Armsby called at the *Journal* office and wished to have published certain articles, viz., those referred to as advertisements in the resolution, and which he then presented. He, Mr. Hutchins, remarked, after reading the manuscript, that there was considerable puffery in them, and asked Dr. Armsby if it was satisfactory and just to all parties interested. Dr. Armsby replied that it was, that he hoped no editor would regard as puffery a mere statement of facts regarding a time-honored institution. The manuscript was delivered, subsequently, either to Dr. Armsby, or to some one for him, and was returned on Monday, with a request to have it published. Mr. Hutchins, on being questioned, stated that he believed that the manuscript was in Dr. Armsby's handwriting, from the fact that it was in the same hand as many other articles which had been delivered to him for publication by Dr. Armsby for years past.

Dr. J. S. Mosher was subsequently asked by the committee if he had seen the manuscript referred to above, while in the *Journal* office on Monday, December 6th? He stated that he had seen it, and on being questioned as to whether he recognized the writing, he replied that he did. On being further questioned as to whose it was, he replied that the manuscript was in Dr. J. H. Armsby's handwriting.

As Mr. Hutchins had referred to a difficulty occurring in the faculty of the Albany Medical College, it was deemed advisable by the committee to ascertain whether any such had lately occurred; they, therefore, applied to those members of the faculty who had alluded to a difficulty in conversation with Mr. Hutchins.

Drs. Vanderpoel and Mosher were questioned as to whether, in a late meeting of the faculty of the Medical College, they had not decidedly differed with Dr. Armsby in a matter introduced by him, and if so, when that meeting took place? They replied that they had so differed with him in the faculty meeting of December 3d. On being further questioned as to whether their action on that occasion had not given rise to much feeling, they stated that, apparently, it had.

According to the resolution, the facts to be determined by the committee, regarding the two articles which appeared in the *Argus* and *Express* of December 6th, are the following:

Who was the author or authors of these advertisements?

What person or persons caused them to be published?

Were they published with the knowledge or consent of any member of this Society?

Was the attempt made to have the same, or similar articles, published in any other newspapers than those in which they appeared?

From a careful and considerate examination of the testimony above given, it is evident that there are two parties, and two only, who are so intimately connected with these publications, as to be under suspicion, viz.: Mr. Lasher and Dr. Armsby.

And here the committee desire to say that, as Mr. Lasher is not a member of the Society, but simply a student of Dr. Armsby's, the mention of him at all, is only made of necessity from his being concerned in the transactions under investigation.

While Mr. Lasher would seem to be the party who immediately caused the publications in the *Argus* and *Express*, a deliberate consideration of the facts above set forth, and especially the singular omission of certain names in the longer article, do not incline us to regard him as the principal in the matter. He, apparently, could have no personal interest in having any such publication made, aside from a desire to promote the interests of his preceptor and instructors.

On the other hand, we have Dr. Armsby, the only other person implicated, whose professional abilities are alluded to in the most complimentary terms in the longer article, who was not on pleasant terms with

those gentlemen of the Faculty of the Medical College, whose names are so singularly omitted from the publication; or, to say the least, there had been between them, only the day before the article was presented for publication in the *Journal*, a serious difference of opinion, which had apparently excited much feeling. We have Dr. Armsby personally appearing at the *Journal* office on Saturday morning, with the manuscript of the articles in his own handwriting, desiring their publication in that paper. This manuscript, it is to be observed, is the earliest manuscript of the article that we find.

Afterwards this manuscript is withdrawn from the *Journal* office, and a copy delivered on Sunday to the *Argus* office, and a second copy to the *Express* office by Mr. Lasher, a student of Dr. Armsby's. That on the same day, and probably at the same time that the manuscript was delivered at the *Express* office, a hundred copies of the paper are ordered for Dr. Armsby, which were subsequently delivered. That on Monday, December 6th, Dr. Armsby called on Mr. Smith, at the *Express* office, and desired to have an article inserted to correct an inadvertence occurring in the longer article, which appeared in the issue of the 6th, Mr. Smith receiving the decided impression, from his conversation with the Doctor, that the latter wrote the original article.

From the above series of facts we are led to the following conclusions called for by the resolution:

First—That Dr. J. H. Armsby was the author of the two advertisements referred to in the resolution, as appearing in the *Argus* and *Express* of December 6th.

Second—That he caused them to be published in the said newspapers.

Third—That they were so published with his knowledge and consent, and that he is a member of this Society.

Fourth—That he attempted to have the said articles, or similar ones, published in the *Journal*.

As to the pamphlet by Dr. Robertson, and his letter to the Medical Class, we have the following evidence:

That both the pamphlet and letter were published under his own signature; that he stated that he, and he alone, was the author of the whole and of every part of both; that he alone caused them to be published; that he did not attempt to have them published in any other form than that in which they appeared.

We have also the statements of Drs. James McNaughton, Thomas Hun, J. V. P. Quackenbush, J. S. Mosher and S. O. Vanderpoel, that they were not the authors of the whole, or of any part of either; that they had not published them, or similar articles, or attempted to have them published in any newspaper, or in any other form; that the editors of the newspapers named, state that neither the articles, nor similar ones, were published, or attempted to be published, in their respective papers.

From a consideration of these facts, we are led to the following conclusions:

First—That Dr. C. A. Robertson, alone, was the author of the whole and of every part of the pamphlet and letter referred to.

Second—That he, alone, caused them to be published.

Third—That they were so published with his knowledge and consent, and that he is a member of this Society.

Fourth—That we cannot learn that any attempt was made to have them published in any newspaper, or in any other form, than that in which they appeared.

CHAS. H. PORTER,
JAMES S. BAILEY,
JAMES L. BABCOCK,
Committee.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER moved that the report of the committee be accepted. The motion being seconded, was voted upon, and was carried.

Dr. C. D. MOSHER moved that the report of the committee be adopted.

Dr. BOULWARE seconded the motion.

Dr. B. P. STAATS thought that the matters under investigation by the committee did not come within the rule of violations of medical ethics, and read a portion from the Code, as follows:

"VI. Public advertisements or private cards, inviting customers afflicted with defined diseases, promising radical cures, engaging for no cure, no pay; offering advice and medicine to the poor, gratis; and producing certificates and signatures, even from respectable individuals in support of the advertisers' skill and success, and the like; are all, absolutely, acts of quackery, which medical institutions should always repress and punish by the rejection or expulsion of those who commit them."

Dr. Staats then referred to the personal qualities and professional abilities of Dr. Armsby, saying that it was to his services Albany owes much; that he originated and successfully established the City Hospital, the Medical College, the Law School and the Dudley Observatory. He said that he was quite willing that anyone should advertise himself as Dr. Armsby had done in the *Express* and *Argus* of December 6th; that there was no harm in the articles, and that the investigation was making a great deal of a little thing.

Dr. C. D. Mosher said, that he regarded the matters under consideration as proper ones for investigation. The question involved in them is simply, are professional advertisements proper or not? If they are not, then these matters should be thoroughly investigated by the Society.

Dr. B. P. Staats remarked, that, in his opinion, it would be highly advantageous to have the matter of advertising carefully considered by the Society, but not for any personal reason. He thought that it would be well to clearly define some course to be pursued in such matters.

Dr. James McNaughton said, that he was glad to be relieved from the suspicion of having written the advertisement referred to in the resolution, though there was nothing especially wrong in them; such puffs were not unusual; every circular of the Medical College contained similar ones. The allusion to him, in the article, he did not regard as puffing him or as complimentary; it was said that he was renewing his age; he might have regarded it otherwise if it was stated that he was renewing his youth. The amendment offered by himself, regarding Dr. Robertson's pamphlet and letter, was for the purpose of having the medical ethics of those publications considered and reported upon by the committee. The committee, to his surprise, had not reported upon that matter, but only upon the author and publisher of the document.

Dr. Boulware said, it has been stated here that the two advertisements were not violations of medical ethics; he believed that they were violations, and in order to present the matter fairly before the Society, he requested that the Secretary read certain resolutions introduced by Dr. Lansing, and approved by the Society, some years ago, which resolutions referred to such publications.

The Secretary then read as follows, from the minutes of the annual meeting of 1864:

"Dr. Lansing offered the following (being the same recommended by the committee appointed by the State

Medical Society, to report upon the propriety of medical practitioners advertising their specialities), to wit:

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Society, it is impossible to define the limits of advertising 'medical specialties,' either in medical or other journals.

"*Resolved*, That advertisements indicating locality and residence, are the utmost limits of self-announcement consistent with professional dignity, and that all reference to special branches of medical practice, as extra inducements to patronage, should be deemed violations of the Code of Medical Ethics.

"*Resolved*, That hereafter any medical practitioner so offending, shall be deemed disqualified to or for membership of this Society, and if already a delegate to, or a member thereof, shall be deemed a fit subject for discipline. Adopted."

Dr. LANSING said, these resolutions refer to specialties, but surgery is not a specialty. The Society seemed to think that this subject was of great interest. They had appointed a committee to look up the matter, which was simply favorable notices of the Medical College; the committee had had a most unpleasant duty to perform; they had pryed about, nosed around editors and jumped over the bars, which, it is supposed, usually surround communications to the press. The labor of the committee has been very laborious, to judge from the report. While they went far beyond their proper bounds in one direction, they did not go far enough in another. They manifested extraordinary zeal in looking up the author and publisher of the two articles, examining a number of the members of the Society and numerous editors, but as far as their labors in regard to the pamphlet and letter, they simply examined Dr. Robertson, who had already said that he was the author of them.

Dr. PORTER here corrected Dr. Lansing, calling his attention to the fact that the same parties were called upon to testify as to the authorship, etc., of the pamphlet and letter, as to the two advertisements.

Dr. LANSING resumed: But admitting that the conclusions of the committee were correct, the question then arises, were the article advertisements properly so called? did

they injure any one? There was, to be sure, a sin of omission in the longer article, but no one doubted but that the three gentlemen, whose names were omitted, had already a sufficient reputation. As for the pamphlet, would Dr. Robertson dare deny that he had received criticisms, suggestions, etc., regarding it, from other members of the profession?

Dr. Robertson said, that the ideas and wording of the pamphlet were entirely his own. He stated that after the article was written it had been subjected to the criticism of others.

Dr. Lansing said, it having been subjected to criticism, unconsciously perhaps to Dr. Robertson, these may have been embodied in the article, and he cannot, therefore, be regarded as the sole author. The complimentary notices of the Faculty were proper and just, even in the reference to himself; no more was said than what was proper. The fact of it was, that this investigation was not so much for the purpose of striking at advertisements, as it was for striking at the Medical College.

Dr. Boulware said, the Medical College was not on trial, and had nothing to do with the case. It was improper to use that institution to throw a mantle over individuals, to shield them from their improper acts. He was a graduate of the College, and interested in it, and did not want to see it disgraced by being used to advertise individuals. Dr. Staats speaks of harmony, and that this investigation tends to diminish it. If Dr. Staats is really desirous of securing harmony, would it not be better, in order to cultivate harmony, to call things by their right names, and name them in the daylight, instead of writing squibs in the newspapers reflecting on the professional standing of members of this Society? He then referred to an article which appeared in the *Journal*, written by Dr. Staats, holding up the profession to ridicule, which Dr. Boulware believed—and asked Dr. Staats if it was

not—written at the suggestion of Dr. Lansing, to reflect upon Dr. Armsby and Dr. Boulware?

Dr. B. P. STAATS said, that he wrote the article alluded to, but not at the suggestion of Dr. Lansing.

Dr. STEVENS remarked, that this matter reminded him of an obstetrical case. After a long and tedious labor the committee had found out, what? That Dr. Armsby had written an article that never saw the light! Mr. Lasher might well have written it, and Dr. Armsby copied it. The time when the article was written is noteworthy. Dr. March had died, and it was thought by many that the College could not stand up under the loss; that Dr. Armsby could not creditably maintain the reputation of the surgical Chair. At the end of the term, everything having gone off well, it was thought best to inform the public of the success. Some names were omitted, it is true; but only those were mentioned who occupied new positions in the institution. Some one had seen fit to so write the article; what does it amount to? Dr. Armsby has worked hard for the public institutions of Albany, thus sacrificing his private interest. He was surprised that the committee could have arrived at such conclusions as they did. It was remarkable, that some were now so delicate about advertising as Dr. Boulware. His name frequently appears in the *Knickerbocker;* but that is accounted for by the fact, that the Doctor professionally attends the editor of that paper.

Dr. BECKETT said, that as reference had been made to an article in the *Journal*, he would make reference to an article in the *Knickerbocker*, in which Dr. E. R. Hun is mentioned as operating for cancer of the tongue. He says that he endeavored to prevent the article being published; he does not seem then to have much influence with the papers. Dr. Beckett then referred to Dr. Boulware's name appearing frequently, in laudatory terms, in the *Knickerbocker*, in the Port Hudson (La.) correspondence during the war, as he knew, from the *Knickerbocker* being taken by members of his own regiment.

Dr. Boulware then said, that he would like to know what is the question before the Society. What has the Hospital to do with it; we are not inquiring who built it, or other institutions, or who wrote the Port Hudson correspondence. If there was any wish to investigate that, or any other articles where his name was mentioned, why not appoint a committee? He would aid them as far as he was able, and if found guilty of violating an established law of this Society, he would acknowledge the offense and make amends. But, as yet, he was not on trial. But why try to avoid the question; the committee say that Dr. Armsby is the guilty man, but Dr. Armsby does not rise to deny it, yet others make the effort to shield him, by discussing matters having no relation to the subject under investigation.

Dr. B. P. Staats moved to lay the report on the table. The motion being seconded, was voted upon and lost.

Dr. Quackenbush said, that he desired to make a personal explanation. The first that he knew of the longer article, he read it in the newspapers. The next he heard of it, Dr. McNaughton disclaimed all knowledge of it before the students, and regretted its publication. In regard to the question propounded by Dr. Boulware to Dr. Staats, he said that it was due to the former, that he assume the responsibility of it, and stated that Dr. Staats had informed him that Dr. Lansing suggested the publication to him in his (Dr. S.'s) own office, and that Dr. L. gave him (Dr. Q.), permission to mention the fact. He then asked Dr. Staats if such was not the fact?

Dr. Staats said, that Dr. Lansing had frequently called at his office.

Dr. Lansing said, that Dr. Boulware had not addressed the question to him.

Dr. Quackenbush continued, that others were interested in the investigation besides the profession. If an editor should prepare and publish an article making such invidious distinctions, he should regard it as an evidence of

partiality and personal hostility, unbecoming the press, the professed servants of the public, and he deemed it due that they should be exonerated. He also remarked, that as the committee had been alluded to in ungracious terms, it seemed to him a very poor policy to blame a committee for doing precisely what the Society had directed them to do.

Dr. B. P. STAATS moved to postpone indefinitely the further consideration of the report. The motion being seconded, was voted upon and lost.

Dr. PORTER then said: That as the committee had been charged with a dereliction of duty, in not reporting as to whether the pamphlet and letter of Dr. Robertson were violations of medical ethics, he felt called upon to say a word. When the committee met, they determined to do exactly what the resolution directed them to do, neither more nor less. As the amendment of Dr. McNaughton's contained an allusion to medical ethics, and there was nothing in it which, even by implication, would lead to its being made a subject of report, the committee had not made it a subject of inquiry. Again, the original resolution only asked that the committee report upon the author and publisher of the articles referred to, and the parties who attempted to have them published. There was nothing in it which could lead the committee to make the medical ethics of the advertisements, and, in consequence, the pamphlet and letter, a matter of inquiry. Moreover, even if the amendment did allude to it, it could not properly be considered in connection with the resolution, as it was not germain to that resolution. Again, it would seem to be implied, in the Code of Medical Ethics, that investigations of violations of that Code ought to be the work of the Censors, at least in commencing proceedings.

The question then was upon the adoption of the report of the committee. The yeas and nays were ordered, and the vote stood as follows:

Yeas—Drs. J. L. Babcock, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, J. R. Boulware, R. J. Bullock, J. F. Crounse, E. R. Hun, M. M. Lamb, R. S. McMurdy, J. W. Moore, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, J. J. Myers, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, C. H. Porter, J. V. P. Quackenbush, C. A. Robertson, C. H. Smith, J. Thompson, A. Wilson, S. Winne—23.

Nays—Drs. O. C. Alexander, G. H. Armsby, J. H. Armsby, T. Beckett, J. P. Boyd, C. Devol, D. E. Fonda, J. A. Gregory, H. R. Haskins, J. V. Lansing, H. March, J. McNaughton, P. McNaughton, B. P. Staats, G. T. Stevens, H. W. Steenburgh, C. E. Whitbeck, A. Van Derveer—18.

Drs. C. Devol and J. McNaughton, during the call, inquired whether a vote in the affirmative was a mere expression of the truth of the findings of the committee, or whether it carried with it a vote of censure upon Dr. Armsby?

Dr. Lansing stated, that it was a vote of censure, as the resolutions, under which the committee acted, characterized the publications of the articles as a violation of the Code of Medical Ethics.

The President then announced that the report of the committee was adopted.

The Society then adjourned to meet in two weeks.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *February* 7, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, February 7th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The Vice-President, Dr. C. D. Mosher, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. Alexander, J. H. Armsby, J. L. Babcock, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Bullock, Case,

CRAIG, DEVOL, DUNKELMEYER, HASKINS, HELME, E. R. HUN, LAMB, C. D. MOSHER, J. S. MOSHER, MYERS, C. B. O'LEARY, D. V. O'LEARY, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, SABIN, STEVENS, STEENBERGH, THOMPSON, VANDERPOEL, VAN DERVEER, WILSON, WINNE.

Also, Drs. C. S. Hoyt, Stimson, Morgan, Wheeler, and E. H. Davis.

The minutes of the last meeting were read; after which, Dr. STEVENS objected to that portion of them which contained his remarks regarding Dr. Boulware and the *Knickerbocker*, as he said the report expressed ideas entirely opposite to those which the words he used would convey, and he wished to have it corrected.

The presiding officer, Dr. C. D. MOSHER, directed him to present the amendment which he desired to have made, in writing.

Dr. BECKETT stated that he desired to correct a statement which he made at the last meeting in regard to Dr. Hun's having called upon the editor of the *Evening Journal*, in order to prevent the publication of an article having reference to a certain surgical operation performed by him. Since that time he (Dr. Beckett) had ascertained that the article spoken of was published without Dr. Hun's consent and contrary to his wishes, and that the interview referred to was for the purpose of preventing a republication of the article in that or any other newspaper.

Dr. VAN DERVEER seconded Dr. Boulware's motion, that the minutes of the last meeting, as read by the Secretary, be approved, and that Drs. Stevens and Beckett be allowed to state their explanations.

Dr. D. V. O'LEARY said, that when the vote was taken on the adoption of the report of the committee, on the publications of Drs. Armsby and Robinson, he was informed that the vote in the affirmative would not be regarded as casting censure upon Dr. Armsby. As he now believed it did, he would have voted in the negative, if he had so understood it at the time.

Dr. Quackenbush offered the following:

Whereas, This Society has been informed that Dr. John Swinburne has purchased his former dwelling house for the purpose of removing his residence to this city; therefore,

Resolved, That the Albany County Medical Society has heard with pleasure of his intended return, and extend to him a cordial welcome, and that the President and Secretary are hereby requested to write him a letter expressive of these sentiments of this Society.

The motion, being seconded, was voted upon, and was unanimously carried.

Dr. A. Van Derveer reported the following case:

J. V., aged fifty-eight years, has been out of health for many years. In September, 1867, was called to attend him in an attack of hemiplegia, accompanied with pleurisy. The hemorrhage was severe, but he soon recovered, but occasionally expectorated blood. Has masturbated since early boyhood; his mind never seems to have been affected. For the last seven years has had great difficulty in voiding his urine. On Sunday was called to see him; respiration was rapid; pulse short and quick; had severe cough, expectorating grayish colored sputa; diagnosed inflammation of left lung, with pleurisy. On Wednesday the lung was improved. On Thursday difficulty increased in passing his urine; it dribbled away in small quantities; passed a small sound and found two strictures, and afterwards passed a No. 3 catheter. On Friday was more comfortable. On Saturday morning, without any alarming symptoms having been developed, he died suddenly.

Autopsy, eight hours after death. Body well nourished; apex of each lung studded with tubercles; extensive pleuritic adhesions on right side and more recent ones on left side; there were osseous deposits on semi-lunar valves of aorta, which was the cause of death. Sixteen years before his death he had been treated for endocarditis. The spleen, liver and kidneys were in a healthy condition. The bladder contained one ounce of urine and mucus; its walls were much thickened. In the urethra were two strictures.

There was hydrocele of the left spermatic cord; it extended up to and within the abdominal ring.

Dr. SABIN reported the following case of "Softening of the Brain," and exhibited the specimen:

Nov. 9th, 1869, was consulted by J. P. B., a young man aged seventeen years, who complained of pain in back of head; dizziness upon standing; bowels constipated. Alteratives were given without effect, and he was advised to give up work. Dec. 31st, had a high fever; pulse one hundred and twenty; tongue foul; pain in back of the head. Jan. 7th, had epileptic convulsions. Veratrum viride was given until pulse was brought to a natural standard, and bromide of potassium and amonium, which controlled the covulsions. He improved, but continually complained of pain in the back of the head until Jan. 31st, when he suddenly died.

Autopsy, thirty-eight hours after death. The body presented, externally, a normal appearance. The ventricles of the brain were filled with a clear fluid, and the cerebellum softened, so that it broke down while removing it, and presented the appearance of a soft gelatinous mass.

Dr. THOMPSON reported the following case: Oct. 11th, Michael J., aged eleven years, in May, 1869, received an injury in the foot, by a car-wheel passing over it. The soft parts of the foot were badly crushed. Forty-eight hours after the accident I was called. Ether was administered and an examination made. There was a contused and lacerated wound of the inner side of the right foot, on a line with the first metatarsal bone, extending from the heel to the ball of the great toe. Two of the toes were gangrenous. The second metatarsal bone was dislocated upward, and forwards; the fourth was so badly fractured that a part of it was detached from the soft parts. The wound was washed with a solution of permanganate of potash, and the parts drawn together by adhesive straps. Ice bags were applied to the feet. On their application he was relieved of pain, so that he did not require any narcotic. Twenty-four hours after, an erysipelatous blush appeared, which spread rapidly.

This was checked by the application of strong tinct. of iodine. The ice bags were continued for about seven days; during this period, if they were left off for any length of time, he would complain of pain. After that he could not endure the cold any longer. The wound was washed with the permanganate solution every other day, and fresh oakum applied to absorb the pus. In three weeks from the time of injury the boy was out in the street, and in six weeks the injured limb was sound and perfect, with the exception of the loss of two toes.

Dr. Porter presented a case of "Intra-uterine Hydrocephalus, with Spina-Bifida," with the following history:

On Monday, Feb. 7th, was called to attend Mrs. B., a well-formed woman, aged twenty-six years, of good constitution, the mother of four children. She was seized with labor-pains at 6:30 A. M., when almost immediately the membranes were ruptured.. The pains then ceased and did not return until 9:45 A. M. It was then ascertained that the breech presented in the left anterior sacro-iliac position. The trunk and extremities were soon delivered, but the head was fixed, and although the labor pains were strong and frequent, no further progress was made towards delivery. The hand was introduced and an attempt was made to flex the head, but without success. Dr. W. G. Wheeler was called in consultation. As the bladder was emptied, the pelvis of normal size, and as repeated attempts to flex or rotate the head were unsuccessful, it was believed that some malformation of the head existed. Smellies' scissors were introduced by Dr. Wheeler, and the head perforated above the left ear. After a discharge of fluid, the complete delivery of a dead female child, at full term, was accomplished at 11:45 A. M. There was hydrocephalus and spina-bifida of the lumbar vertebræ. The shaft of the left femur was curved, and the corresponding knee joint partly anchylosed.

Diameters of head.—Occipito-mental, 7.75 inches; occipito-frontal, 7.25 inches; sub-occipito bregmatic, 6.00 in-

ches; bi-parietal, 5.25 inches; bi-temporal, 4.75 inches; trachelo-bregmatic, 5.25 inches; fronto-mental, 3.00 inches.

Circumference of the head—Occipito-mental, 23.25 inches; occipito-frontal, 22.50 inches; sub-occipito bregmatic, 22.00 inches. Cazeau, in treating of intra-uterine hydrocephalus, says that it is such a rare disease, that Madame La Chappele observed but fifteen cases in forty-three thousand five hundred and fifty-five labors. Aside from the unusual size of the head, and the occurrence of hydrocephalus, with spina-bifida, the case is interesting from its being complicated by a breech presentation. Preternatural presentations are far more common in hydrocephalic than in ordinary cases.

The sixty-nine cases of hydrocephalus, being those collected by Dr. Thomas Keith:

	Head presentations.	Pelvis. presentations.	Transverse. presentations.
Hydrocephalus cases.....	59 in 69.	1 in 7.	1 in 69.
Common cases.....	96 in 100.	1 in 31.	1 in 226.

Dr. E. R. HUN presented a case of "Abscess of the Liver and Typhoid Fever," with the following history: Roark, aged twenty-seven; laborer; unmarried. January 23rd, had severe chills preceded by headache. 25th, high fever. 29th, pulse full, 110 per minute; no tenderness, but some gurgling over right iliac fossa; no pain; considerable tremor of fingers; a large swelling existed under the angle of the lower jaw; tongue dry and furred; some sordes on teeth. Diagnosis, typhoid fever; January 30th and 31st had severe diarrhœa; February 3d, diarrhœa better, but the gland under the jaw so swollen as to prevent him from opening his mouth; February 4th, swollen gland suppurated and discharged into external meatus of ear; tongue dry and brown, and teeth and gums covered with sordes; hands and face covered with perspiration; he gradually sank, and died at 2 A. M. February 4th.

Autopsy—Eleven hours after death. External appearances: Body not much emaciated; a fluctuating swelling at the angle of the left jaw, which, upon pressure, dis-

charged a thick yellow matter into the external meatus of the ear; considerable bulging of the ribs and cartilages over the right lobe of liver.

Thorax—Right pleural cavity diminished in size, owing to the bulging upwards of the diaphragm. Recent pleuritic adhesions on the right side; no effusion; lungs healthy and heart normal.

Abdomen—Liver much increased in size, its convex surface adherent to the diaphragm. On trying to separate these adhesions, a sudden gush of fluid took place; flakes of broken down tissue were found in this fluid. In the upper part of the right lobe was a cavity which had contained sixty-four ounces of greenish sero-sanguinous fluid, besides several masses of gray broken-down tissue as large as the fist. The cavity was lined by a roughened gray surface, and at several points was traversed by bands of tissue; no offensive odor was perceptible; a thin layer of dark-colored, condensed hepatic tissue separated the cavity from the peritoneum; the remainder of the liver appeared healthy; the spleen and kidneys were normal; the ilium was much congested, but there were no ulcers or enlarged glands found except in the caput-coli; the mesenteric glands were somewhat enlarged; head and spine not examined.

Dr. Vanderpoel presented a case of "Disease of the Lungs," with the following history: W. L., aged twenty-one, had symptoms of pulmonary disease four months; during the last week of his life had suffered greatly from dyspnœa, and during the last four or five days this was so intense that he was unable to lie down. At the autopsy, a bronchial gland, as large as a hen's egg, was found filled with the same deposit hereafter mentioned as occurring in the lungs.

This gland was situated between the trachea and the sternum, just above the bifurcation of the latter, and almost obliterated the air passage. The lungs were found studded with nodular deposits, which he (Dr. V.) regarded

as tubercular matter, but which Dr. E. R. Hun believed to be of a cancerous nature.

Dr. ALEXANDER stated that he had treated a case of epithelial cancer of four years' standing with oxalic acid, continuing its use for four or five days at a time; there were no symptoms of poisoning during this treatment; after six weeks the ulcer healed entirely; he had been led to the employment of this agent by the good effects said to have resulted from the use of the extract of wood sorrel (oxalis acetasella).

The Society then adjourned to meet in two weeks.

CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *February* 21, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, February 21st, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. WM. H. CRAIG, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. L. BABCOCK, J. S. BAILEY, BECKETT, BOULWARE, BULLOCK, CRAIG, DEVOL, GREGORY, LAMB, LANSING, L. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, D. V. O'LEARY, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VANDERPOEL and WILSON.

Also, Drs. W. G. Wheeler, W. Heinze, Wm. Morgan and Peck, of Glen's Falls.

The Secretary being absent, on motion of Dr. QUACKENBUSH, Dr. E. R. Hun was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

Dr. VANDERPOEL read a paper on "Puerperal Eclampsia." He said that he had recently had two cases of puerperal eclampsia, which were seeming exceptions to the recognized pathology of the disease.

The first case, Mrs. G——, was in the ninth month of her fourth pregnancy. No unusual circumstance had occurred during its progress; nor was there anything in her

condition to awaken apprehension. In the evening the Doctor found her comatose; a short time previous she had had a convulsion, and this was soon followed by another. The os was dilated to the size of a dime, and was easily dilatable; there was no indication of labor pains. The convulsions returned at irregular intervals, until near midnight, when evidences of labor were apparent; after this the convulsions were not so frequent; at no time was there consciousness. She was delivered of a living child near four o'clock in the morning; an hour after she had a convulsion, when a full dose of anodyne was given. There were no more convulsions; she remained insensible all the day, and began to recognize persons twenty-four hours subsequently. The recovery, though slow, presented no unusual features.

The second case was Mrs. S——, a *prima para*, delicately formed, with a highly sensitive nervous organization. During the early stages of pregnancy, she suffered much from reflex symptoms; after the fourth month, these disappeared. Attended church during the day, and appeared to be remarkably well at nine o'clock in the evening. The Doctor was summoned on account of intense pain near the epigastrium. The vagina was dry; the cervix closed and elongated; a full dose of camphor and opium was administered. An hour after, she was insensible from a fit, which was soon followed by another; the convulsions were neither frequent nor severe; symptoms of labor came on in an hour or two. Forceps were soon applied. At first the slightest traction caused spasmodic contraction of the cervix, grasping the blades so firmly that the head was immovable. The labor was completed near morning; a half hour after, a convulsion occurred, and she died in a few minutes.

The interesting features of the cases are, that all the ordinary prodromic symptoms of uræmia were absent; no swelling of the features or extremities; no headache; no scantiness of urine; on the contrary, both were unusually

thin, and all the symptoms were favorable. The first case was examined for albumen, but none found. The pathology of puerperal eclampsia is so constantly dependent upon functional or organic disturbance of the kidneys, that the Doctor said that he was unable to determine the real cause of the disease. Of fifty cases reported in Elliott's Obstetrical Clinique, there is but one in which the presence of albumen was not noticed, either immediately before or after the convulsions. Before the intimate relation of the condition of the kidneys to the convulsions was established, the greatest variety of views were entertained as to the etiology of convulsions. Thus, Chailley claims, that pregnancy, in itself, is one of the essential causes of convulsions, and as predisposing, the lymphatic temperament, sudden moral emotions, irritation and an acute pain. Ramsbotham says: "The disease has proved fatal often without any organic lesion being evident on dissection, or without even the vessels being observed to be preternaturally full." Meigs, in 1850, says: "There are many circumstances, the concurrence of which tends to the development of the eclampsic convulsions of pregnant, puerperal and lying-in women. For many women, the whole state of gestation, from conception to labor, is a state of nervous excitement and hyperæsthesia, which renders the subject specially obnoxious under the application of existing causes to convulsions or irregular non-conformable innervations." Thus other causes than uræmic poisoning occasionally induce this disorder; chief among which, the Doctor said he recognized the lymphatic temperament, subject to previous attacks of chorea. Elliott says epileptics are not specially subject to them. In the general recommendation for anæsthetics, do we not lose sight of other plans of treatment formerly adopted? Anæsthetics seem to be too fugitive in their effects to hope from them controlling or lasting influence. The Doctor said, that in the early stage, and where the condition of the patient permitted, he favored depletion, with a view to attenuate the uræmic influence; the depletion to

be followed by full doses of opium or morphine. He thought too much stress laid upon the early delivery of the child, for convulsions occur after as well as before delivery. He would, therefore, leave the expulsion of the child to the efforts of nature, giving attention rather to the arrest of the convulsions. The opiates, while favoring the relaxation of the cervix, restrain the convulsions. The hydrate of chloral may prove a valuable aid in the treatment of this disease. In answer to an inquiry, he stated that opium acted differently in puerperal convulsions from what it did in Bright's disease.

Dr. Mosher mentioned cases where opium did well.

Dr. Moore reported two cases in which blood-letting was adopted; both cases resulted favorably.

Dr. Gregory mentioned a case which he attended, that of a girl, aged seventeen, seven months gone when he saw her. She had had three or four convulsions; face swollen and purple; tongue bitten, and was entirely unconscious. The repeated administration of morphia and bromide of potassium gave no relief; after six or eight hours he delivered her, by craniotomy, and she died after having forty or fifty convulsions.

Dr. Quackenbush remarked, that either there were mistakes in diagnosis, often made regarding this disease, or else puerperal convulsions were more frequent than formerly. In his own practice, in 5,000 labors, he had had but two cases, though had seen others, in consultation. The tendency, in his opinion, was to refer the complaint too often to albuminuria. His plan of treatment was:

First—To deliver the child.

Second—Bleed in almost all cases, moderately, at first; stop, and bleed again if the convulsions returned. Anæsthetics and opium have not done well in his cases. The books all state that the convulsions usually occur before delivery, and he finds it so. In Dr. Gregory's case, he should have bled. The lancet, alone, he would regard favorably; opium, alone, unfavorably; together, they might

operate favorably, but, in his opinion, the benefit was derived from the bleeding; the opium would do no good. Neither hysteria nor epilepsy are common during pregnancy.

Dr. DEVOL said, that he had had four cases; those in which he had used the lancet early and boldly, both mother and children lived, in the others they died.

Dr. MOORE stated, that in his opinion, when the patients had the premonitory symptoms, such as headache, etc., it is best to bleed at once, and prevent the convulsions.

Dr. BOULWARE had had four cases; he had used forceps and delivered at once. In three cases the convulsions ceased immediately after the delivery; in the fourth the patient died after ten days of convulsions.

Dr. MOSHER said, that as the traction produced the convulsions, the cause must lie in the uterus. In the worst case he ever saw, there was ulceration of the os.

Dr. BOULWARE remarked, that if the cause lay in the uterus, the proper plan was to get rid of the child and relieve the uterus.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH stated that the uterine contractions and the puerperal convulsions were coincident; hence, when we introduce an instrument, the uterus contracts and the convulsions commence. When they occur after delivery, the after-pains may cause them.

Dr. BECKETT made the following report of a case of "Cystitis and Retention of Urine:"

Mrs. G——, the patient, was thirty-nine years of age; small in stature and spare-limbed; the mother of three children. Found her lying upon her back in bed, knees drawn up and hands pressing upon the abdomen. She looked pale and was greatly emaciated, and appeared nearly exhausted. Pulse small, and one hundred per minute. In the abdomen was a tumor as large as a gravid uterus at the end of the sixth month. An examination, per vagina, showed the tumor to be the bladder enormously distended, from which the urine continually dribbled away. A small

catheter was introduced and the bladder emptied. The urine obtained measured eight pints; it was acid, contained pus and had a most intolerable odor.

The history obtained was as follows: Five weeks before, at the close of a hard day's work, she ate a large quantity of vegetables in the form of a salad. During the evening she suffered from pain in her stomach and bowels. In the night she was awakened by a painful desire to void urine, but was unable to pass a drop. As the distension of the bladder continued, the pain became more severe, and she imagined herself in labor. The next night the urine began to dribble away, and continued to do so for five days, during which time she was dosed with parsley-root tea. A quack was called in, who gave her pills, injections, etc., with the intent to expedite the labor. Dr. D. was called; he said he did nothing for her. Dr. Beckett gave her one grain of opium every four hours, and one twentieth of a grain of strychnia, and ext. buchu f℥iii in flax-seed tea three times a day. This treatment was continued and the bladder emptied with a catheter each day until Nov. 22d. She then retained her urine tolerably well, and voided it at regular intervals. It was still mixed with pus. At that time the pain was almost gone. She slept well and was much improved generally. Opium, two grains, was given each night; quinine, two grains, three times per day, and buchu and flax-seed as before, beef tea and other nourishment as from the beginning. Next saw her Dec. 2d; suffered from inability to pass her urine. This was drawn off at proper intervals till Dec. 7th, when the urethra was found plugged with a membranous substance. It was laid hold of by the fingers, and a large piece of granular or plastic exudation removed, measuring eight by five inches, and one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, and weighing four hundred and ten grains. After its removal, the bladder violently expelled a pint of fetid mixture of urine, pus and disintegrated granular matter. During the expulsion the patient suffered extreme pain. After the pain subsided

tepid water was injected into the bladded until a clear stream passed from the catheter. Opium, one grain, four times per day, and buchu and flax-seed as before. Dec. 11th, patient sat up; has controled her urine; was free from pain; ate and slept well. Dec. 13th, was much improved; scrubbed her kitchen floor, and no longer requires medical attention.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH said he delivered a woman of twins, one week after she was unable to retain her unine. He found all of the parts natural. The Doctor subsequently introduced a stick of lunar caustic into the urethra, and in a few days she was cured.

Dr. WHEELER reported a case of "Primary Cancer of the left Kidney." The subject, when two years of age, had a fall and struck upon the left side. Two months after there was pain and an enlargement in the left hypochondriac region. This enlargement rapidly increased and extended downward, occupying the left iliac fossa and descended into pelvis, then crossed over to the right side, lifting the bladder up above the sympathis pubis. The child died ten months after the injury, aged two years and ten months. On post-mortem examination the kidney was found greatly enlarged; it weighed six pounds and seven ounces; its surface was nodulated, and its parenchyma filled with cancerous masses of various sizes. There was extensive cancerous infiltration of the mesenteric lumbar and bronchial glands. Both lungs contained nodules of cancerous matter from the size of a cherry-stone to that of an almond.

Dr. THOMPSON reported the following case of "Acute Morbus Coxarius:"

J. C——, aged seventeen, of a delicate constitution—has lost several near relations from phthisis—in the early part of last fall thoroughly wet his clothing, and remained so from morning until night. A week after, he complained of pain in the ilio-sacral articulation of the right side, extending downward. The pain gradually increased in severity. Counter irritation was applied on the dorsum of

the ilium, which afforded him some relief for a few days. A week after the pain was more severe and constant. On abduction and rotation of the leg there was pain in the joint, especially if the leg was flexed on the thigh. The case was diagnosed as one of acute morbus coxarius. Adhesivs plaster strips were placed on the thigh, and counter extension made by attaching a 15 lb. bag of sand, by means of a cord, to the lower end of the strips of plaster. This treatment quickly relieved the pain, and was continued for eight weeks, gradually diminishing the weight of sand. The extension has now been off six weeks; the patient is gaining in flesh, and there is no tenderness about the joint. The case goes to prove—

First—The rapidity with which disease of the joint may be developed by exposure to dampness.

Second—The readiness with which the disease may be cured in the acute stage.

Dr. Babcock then reported a case of "Hip disease."

The Society adjourned to meet in two weeks.

E. R. Hun, *Secretary pro tem.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *March* 7, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, March 7th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. Wm. H. Craig, in the chair.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. L. Babcock, J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Beckett, Boulware, Case, Craig, Devol, Fowler, Gregory, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, J. S. Mosher, Northrop, C. B. O'Leary, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Quackenbush, Robertson, Sabin, Stevens, Thompson, Van Derveer and Wilson.

Also, Drs. E. M. Davis and D. Stimson.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were proposed for membership:

By Dr. Sabin: Dr. Emmet Flagler, West Troy, N. Y.

By Dr. Wm. H. Bailey: Dr. Wm. Morgan.

By Dr. Boulware: Drs. J. Myers Briggs, H. D. Losee, J. R. Davidson.

Dr. SABIN presented for examination a patient of his, affected, apparently, with some disease of the stomach, and requested the members to favor him with their opinion of the case, as he had been unable to make a satisfactory diagnosis.

Dr. W. G. WHEELER then addressed the Society on "Distension of the Bladder as a Complication of Labor." Many apparently little matters connected with lying-in women are really important, and are apt to be overlooked by the practitioner. In the preliminary steps of labor there is more or less general disturbance of the system. Through the nerves telegrams are sent to different organs, as the rectum and bladder; if they fail to receive the telegram, the aid of a physician is often required, as in the case of the bladder, which may then require to be relieved by the catheter. He then mentioned the following cases as illustrating the importance of the subject of which he was speaking:

CASE I.—He was called to attend a woman, the mother of four children. The midwife said the woman had been in labor twelve hours. The Doctor found the patient very nervous, with an anxious expression, and suffering intense pain; on making a vaginal examination, the os uteri was found well dilated, the head high up; it had not entered the superior strait. On feeling for the bladder, it was found absent from its usual position, being thrown up to the left, and distended; the urine was drawn, when the patient went to sleep, and slept for three-quarters of an hour; in the course of two hours she was delivered naturally. This case shows that a distended bladder alters the relation of the child to the axis of the pelvis.

Case II.—In Doctor Porter's case of intra-uterine hydrocephalus, presented a few meetings since, after the body of the child was delivered, the abdomen of the mother was found distended as if by twins, or an ovarian cyst fluctuation was apparent; the bladder was so drawn up into the left iliac fossa that some difficulty was experienced in introducing a gum elastic catheter; a considerable quantity of urine was then drawn off.

Case III.—A *prima para*, fifteen hours after delivery; was seized with convulsion; on vaginal examination no clots were found; the uterus was contracted and quiet; the abdomen was distended; after the water was drawn off there were no more convulsions, and she soon became quiet.

Case IV.—In this instance the Doctor left his patient, a *prima para*, at noon, in good condition. In the evening he heard that she had after-pains, and sent opiates. The next morning he was informed that her sufferings were growing more and more intense. On examination, he found a distended bladder; this being emptied, the patient was at once relieved.

Case V.—Was that of a woman who had been thirty-six hours in labor. The attending physician had applied forceps, but could not deliver.

Dr. Wheeler found that the head had not entered the superior strait, and that the bladder was ruptured. Probably there was prolapsus of the bladder, originally, and traction caused the rupture. When there was the least doubt as to the condition of the bladder, the Doctor advised the use of the catheter. The principle causes of the distension of the bladder were stated as follows:

First—Displacement of the organ, as prolapsus; hence the patient is unable to void urine.

Second—Loss of tonicity of the bladder.

Third—Mechanical obstructions, as malformation or tumors in the region.

Fourth—Stricture of the urethra.

Fifth—Stone.

Sixth—Mechanical obstruction from pressure of the head of the child.

Dr. JAMES S. BAILEY gave the following history of a case of "Paralysis occurring during Pregnancy:" A *prima para*, aged twenty-seven, when four months advanced in pregnancy, complained, on rising one morning, of numbness of her extremities, and by noon had lost the use of her lower limbs. During the next day her arms became paralyzed, but her articulation remained unaffected, and she could move her head, though with pain. The muscular system seemed sore and tender; to touch even the end of her nose, gave her sharp pain. On the seventh day, a pain commenced over the sacrum, and was so excruciating as to prevent rest or sleep. This continued a week and then passed to the lower extremities, producing violent contractions of the muscles. This condition disappeared in a few days, but left the parts exceedingly tender to the touch. The bowels, bladder, etc., were natural. In two months the patient began to recover the use of her arms, but her legs remained useless until after her confinement. Labor was normal; she had an abundance of milk, and the child did well. Her menses returned in ten months after, and after the second flow she began to recover the use of her lower limbs. In twenty-one months from her first accouchment, she was delivered of a fine girl. She has continued slowly to improve, and is now attending to her household duties.

Dr. J. M. BIGELOW then presented a specimen of stricture of the urethra, and gave some details of the history of the case.

Dr. WILSON offered the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, It has been charged that members of this Society have been freely circulating in this city a certain anonymous communication, derogatory to the professional character of Dr. James McNaughton, President of the Albany Medical College, and a member of this Society; and,

Whereas, It has been intimated that such communication was written by a member of this Society; and,

Whereas, It is the duty of this Society to exonerate its members from such imputations, if innocent, and to censure them if guilty; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President to investigate the matter, and to ascertain, if possible, the author or authors of the said anonymous communication, and the person or persons who circulated the aforesaid anonymous communication.

The preamble and resolution being seconded, were voted upon and adopted.

The President appointed as the committeee called for by the above resolution, Drs. Andrew Wilson, Levi Moore, Thomas Beckett.

Dr. Quackenbush reported a case of "Inversion of the the Uterus," of sixteen months standing, which he reduced in sixteen minutes by the method laid down in his report on Inversion of the Uterus, made to the New York State Medical Society, at its meeting in 1859, and published in the Transactions of the Society of that year.

Dr. Babcock offered the following motion: That Dr. Quackenbush be requested to prepare a paper on inversion of the uterus.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and carried.

The Society then adjourned to meet in two weeks.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *March* 21, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, on Monday, March 21st, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. Wm. H. Craig, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. G. H. Armsby, J. L. Babcock, J. S. Bailey, Boulware, Craig, Devol, E. R. Hun, Lamb, Lansing, McMurdy, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, Porter, Quackenbush, Sabin, Thompson, Van Derveer and Winne.

Also, Drs. Heinze, D. M. Stimson, C. S. Hoyt, La Moree and J. M. Bigelow.

After, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved,

Dr. C. D. MOSHER reported a case of "Dislocation of the Shoulder," occurring in a woman aged thirty-five years. She fell, striking upon her elbow. The point of interest in the case, the Doctor stated, was that the patient only complained of pain in the elbow, and was not aware of the dislocation. Reduction was readily effected.

Dr. R. H. SABIN made the following report of "Descent of the Bladder in Confinement." The Doctor was called at 7 A. M., March 9th, 1870, to see Mrs. H., an Irish woman, aged thirty, the mother of five children, two of which were still-born, the others are now living. The attendants said the woman had been in labor since four o'clock in the morning, and had had very hard pains. She had been under the care of a midwife three days. On examination the os was found slightly dilated and very dry; the water was said to have passed two days before. During the examination she had severe pains, which ceased when the finger was withdrawn. She seemed very much exhausted and wanted rest. Tulley's powders were given her. Twice afterwards, at intervals of two hours, the finger was introduced, when she had severe pain, which ceased when the finger was withdrawn. During the dilation of the os by the finger, good pains came on. As they progressed, something was felt coming down just under the arch of the pubis, which was found to be the bladder, presenting in front of the head. The woman had just before completely emptied the bladder. The head soon presented at the upper strait in the right occipito-iliac position, but as no progress was made, notwithstanding very hard pains, after two hours and a half forceps were applied. In half an hour, after considerable difficulty, she was delivered of a large dead child, which, no doubt, had been dead some days, as it was partially decomposed. The uterus con-

tracted quickly, and the placenta was removed about fifteen minutes after the delivery of the child. The bladder was placed in its proper position and a bandage applied. There was no hemorrhage. She was daily visited, and appeared to be doing well, until the night of the third day, when she flowed severely, saturating the bed with blood and became cold, pale, and faint. Ice water was applied. The bladder was found all right, and a mass of clots in the vagina. The os was plugged with cloth, saturated with alum water, and stimulants were administered. She revived and seemed to improve until the fifth day; peritoneal inflammation set in, and she died on the seventh day after her confinement.

Dr. Quackenbush expressed the opinion that protrusion of the bladder was very rare. He had heard of but three or four cases in Albany. He gave, briefly, histories of two cases that had occurred in his own practice. In his opinion the pains experienced by the woman, in Dr. Sabin's case, were caused by the tumor, and were not labor pains. Although the os uteri may be dilated by irritating it with the fingers, he regarded the procedure as of doubtful propriety. In many cases, he said, we find, the vagina dry and rigid, but as the os is dilated by nature, the vagina becomes moistened and relaxed, and the parts then become ready for easy delivery, which is not nearly always the case when the dilation is caused by the irritation of the finger; hence, injury as rupture of the perineum, is more apt to occur in these latter cases than in others. In regard to bandaging, he believed that it was essential in some, advantageous in many, and agreeable to the patient in all cases. Dr. Q. then stated, that in seven cases out of ten, he delivered the placenta by simple pressure upon the abdominal walls, compressing the uterus, causing it to contract. In scarcely three cases out of ten, did he find it necessary to introduce his finger into the vagina. The pressure was applied, on an average, not more than ten minutes before the placenta came away.

Dr. James S. Bailey said that he had used that method

of delivering the placenta for many years, and was pleased with it.

Dr. SABIN then reported a case of "Inflammatory Rheumatism during Confinement," as follows: Feb. 28th, 1870, was called to attend Mrs. A. A., in her second confinement. She is an American woman, of frail constitution, aged twenty-five years. She suffered great pain in both wrists, extending down to the hands, and in the left knee, which was swollen and tender to the touch. She had had four slight pains in her back, which acted like labor pains. The os was but slightly dilated. Tulley's powder was given; an hour after, the child was born. During the labor, she did not feel any pain in the knee or wrist; but it was severe in those parts when the labor terminated, and underwent the usual course of inflammatory rheumatism. She recovered in about three weeks.

When the child was three days old, he was taken with ophthalmia in one eye, which extended to the other in two or three days, from which disease he died when two weeks old.

Dr. LEVI MOORE reported the following cases of "Hemiplegia."

CASE I.—Mrs. H——, aged seventy-four, of spare habit and in good health, was suddenly affected, without any premonitory symptoms of brain or spinal disease, with inability to articulate distinctly; and with loss of muscular power of the right side, in a moderate degree. She was free from febrile action, and the pulse was not accelerated; her mental powers were apparently unimpaired. The urine contained albumen in considerable quantities. A laxative was given, counter irritation applied along the spine and to the extremities; and also, to the latter, bottles of hot water. A nutritious diet was ordered. On the second day the paralysis was much more apparant, and the patient much prostrated. Quinine, one grain every three hours, was given; beef tea and stimulants allowed. She improved under this treatment, until four weeks from the

time of the attack, when she relapsed. The second attack was less severe than the former one. Potassa bromide, gr. v, and fluid ext. aconite, gtt. ii, was given every three hours; the warmth of the body maintained; and a nutritious diet ordered. The paralysis soon became less marked, and the articulation quite distinct. Her condition in many ways is much improved.

Case II.—Mr. C——, aged sixty-five, of full habit; somewhat given to intemperance; attended a public performance; he was chilled by sitting in a draft of air, and had a feeling of numbness, and a sense of irregularity of gait, when walking home, and when there, felt chilly, and was not readily warmed; his sleep was disturbed and broken; he was chilly the next day, and restless the following night; in rising at three o'clock A. M. he stumbled, and lay down again; in the morning his left side was powerless; he lay upon his back; pulse eighty; skin cool; no headache, or tenderness along the spine; there was but little difficulty in articulation; neither his left arm nor leg could be moved by his volition; no albumen was found in his urine. Pill hydrargeri, gr. xv, was given and followed by a dose of castor oil. Counter irritation was made along the spine, and to the extremities; and also, to the latter, bottles of hot water were applied, and cold water to the head. After a few movements of the bowels, bromide potassa, gr. v, and fluid ext. aconite, gtt. ii, were given every three hours, and continued to date. The patient was much improved; the arm is more under the power of volition; the leg is constantly gaining.

Case III.—Mrs. L——, of full habit; lymphatic temperament; usually in good health; had had a severe chill (February 27); extremities cold; pulse sixty; tongue furred, and not readily protruded; speech indistinct; slight paralysis of muscles of left side of face, and tending to drowse; she did not complain of pain; there was tenderness over the lower cervical vertebræ and incomplete

paralysis of the right arm and leg; there was no albumen in the urine. Blue mass was given, and a blister applied at the point of tenderness over the spinal column; cold to the head and hot water to the extremities. Potassa bromide and fluid extract of aconite were given, and quinine gr. i, three times each day. The coma continued seventy-two hours; there has been no recurrence of it, and the patient has steadily improved.

In each of the above cases the hemiplegia seems to have been produced by a different cause.

The presence of albumen in the urine would seem to indicate that the uræmic poisoning may have been the primary cause of the paralysis. In the case of Mr. C. checked perspiration appeared to have been the cause, and the paralysis the primary affection, while in the case of Mrs. L. well marked apoplectic symptoms were observed. In Mr. C's. case the arm was restored to usefulness much more rapidly than the leg, while Watson says the reverse is true in nine cases out of ten.

Dr. J. M. BIGELOW presented the following history of a case of "Membranous Croup," occurring in his practice: Was called to see S. G., aged seven, October 14th, 1869; he was convalescent from measles; his head was thrown back upon his shoulders; his face livid; pulse frequent; he had intense dyspnœa and cough, paroxysmal and croupy, which was excited by the least disturbance; widely diffused sonorous rales, whistling and laryngeal breathing were observed. Diagnosis—Membraneous croup. Treatment —Infusion of ipecac as an emetic; it soon caused vomiting, after which a croup kettle was used, and one of the following powders was ordered to be given every four hours: *R.* Quinine sulph. gr. iii, hydrargyri chlor. mite. gr. xii, pulv. ipecac, cum opii. gr. viii; Ft. pulv. No. 6. Oct. 15th, nine A. M., dyspnœa less; other symptoms the same; used lime water spray, and gave a second emetic, after which there was some mucus and a portion of membrane expectorated; one P. M., countenance indifferent; brow cold

and covered with a clammy sweat; ten P. M., cyanosis increased; clammy sweat; pulse unequal; sleep tranquil; could be roused, but soon relapsed into this comatose condition. Died at three A. M., October 16th. The autopsy revealed a thickened and vascular condition of the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, which were livid and lined with a tenacious yellow mucus, which was also found in the smaller bronchi; attached to the right vocal cord was a yellowish-white membrane extending transversely across the larynx and into the left bronchus, and so far as the root of the left lung. This membrane traversed the whole of the trachea, and must have contributed largely to the pulmonary œdema of the left lung. The remains of the old pleuritic adhesions were present; the other viscera were normal.

Dr. Van Derveer exhibited a pathological specimen which he had recently removed from a woman. It consisted of a flat tumor about one inch in diameter, occurring on the external surface of the dura-mater over the left hemisphere. In consequence of the pressure of the tumor, there had been absorption of the corresponding portion of both tables of the skull, at a point opposite to the center of the tumor. The external table was perforated. The Doctor had not observed any symptoms indicating diseased condition of the parts, and was about to operate for what he supposed to be scirrhus of the breast, when soon after eating the woman suddenly expired. At the autopsy, the abdominal and thoracic organs were found healthy, with the exception of the kidneys, which the Doctor stated were in the condition known as "pig kidney." The cause of death he did not discover.

Dr. L. Moore moved that the paper of Dr. Quackenbush, on "Inversion of the Uterus," be made first in the order of business at the next meeting.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and carried.

Dr. James S. Bailey moved that the thanks of the

Society be presented to Dr. Devol for his effort to entertain the Society.

The motion being seconded by Dr. Hun, was voted upon and carried.

Dr. DEVOL stated, that he had observed, during the last few meetings, the absence of a number of the older, as well as younger members of the Society, living in the city, and he thought it but proper that some effort should be made to secure their attendance for the future.

Dr. BOULWARE moved that Dr. Devol be appointed a committee to call upon the absentees, and that he be directed to use such measures, as in his opinion were most advisable, to secure their regular attendance at future meetings of the Society.

The motion was seconded by Dr. C. D. Mosher.

The Society then adjourned to meet in two weeks.

CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *April* 4, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital on Tuesday, April 4th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. WM. H. CRAIG, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. ALEXANDER, J. S. BAILEY, W. H. BAILEY, BOULWARE, CASE, CRAIG, DEVOL, GREGORY, E. R. HUN, LAMB, LANSING, L. MOORE, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, ROBERTSON, SABIN, STEVENS, THOMPSON, VAN DERVEER, WILSON and WINNE.

Also, Drs. C. S. Hoyt, J. M. Bigelow, D. M. Stimson, W. Heinze.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH then addressed the Society on "Inver-

sion of the Uterus." After defining the term, he stated that the remote causes of this complaint are:

First—The Fœtus.

Second—Fibroid tumors.

Third—Hydrometra.

Fourth—Phymetra.

Fifth—Hydatids.

Sixth—Retained menses, and conjoined with one or more of these causes, inertia or atony of the womb.

The exciting or proximate causes are, traction of the cord; traction by polypi or tumors, and sudden traction of the child in delivery. As to the mode of its production, he said it may universally be regarded as coming down from above, making an indentation in the fundus. He remarked that he advanced the idea that eversion commenced in the fibers of the os, and thus the whole body is turned out, and we have complete inversion. After remarking the mode of distinguishing between fibroid tumor and partial inversion, and the great difficulty of making a correct diagnosis in the case of an inverted uterus with a tumor attached, he spoke of the treatment; this consisted either in:

First—Replacement of the womb.

Second—Allowing it to remain inverted, and making use of means to arrest hemorrhage; or,

Third—Its removal by amputation.

The Doctor then alluded to the various modes of replacement, and referred to that mode devised by him, and described in the Transactions of the New York State Medical Society, 1859.

In those cases, where all manipulations fail, the abdomen must be opened, as in the preliminary operation for the removal of ovarian tumor, and then the uterus placed in its normal position.

Dr. Sabin said that, two years ago, he attended a woman in confinement; the labor was not severe and the placenta came away readily fifteen or twenty minutes after the

delivery of the child. The woman flowed profusely; brandy was given and a tampon was applied. An hour after she was pale and exhausted. A catheter was used twice each day to remove the water. On the third day, inversion of the uterus was observed. The question arose with me, said the Doctor, as to whether the inversion was produced at the time of labor or afterwards. The patient improved and went to Massachusetts. A year afterwards a successful attempt was made to reduce the inversion.

Dr. QUACKENBNSH thought, that in this case, as in the famous Chicago case, the inversion took place at the time of confinement. In reply to the inquiry of Dr. Boulware, as to whether spontaneous inversion of the uterus could take place, he (Dr. Q.) expressed the opinion that it could not.

Dr. WM. H. BAILEY gave some particulars of a patient of his, a man in middle life, who, at intervals, had passed bloody urine. At times the amount of blood discharged in the urine was large, and the patient became thin and anæmic. In consequence of a fall, he had lately had an attack, and this morning another attack of the same complaint, probably from taking cold.

Dr. STIMSON then read a paper by Dr. E. R. Hun, a report of a case of "Fibroid Tumor of the Uterus." A. C. (colored), aged twenty-six years, was admitted to the State Lunatic Asylum, June 27th, 1868, with melancholia. She was fancied to have a large lobulated tumor of the abdomen. She gradually became demented and anæmic, and suddenly died, March 25th, 1870.

The autopsy was made thirty-six hours after death. The peritoneal cavity contained a few ounces of yellow serum, but there was no signs of peritonitis, except from old adhesions of the liver and diaphragm. The liver was in an advanced state of fatty degeneration. The lower part of the abdomen and the pelvic cavity was filled with a mass of hard, rounded tumors, which varied in size from a bean to a fœtal head. They were all imbedded in the walls

of, or attached to the uterus, and those nearest to the anterior abdominal wall were loosely attached and freely movable. The ovaries and fallopian tubes were free and not implicated in the disease. The vagina was normal and the cervix uteri much elongated, tortuous, from the pressure of the tumor.

The cavity of the uterus was enlarged, and contained a glairy sanguinous matter. One of the tumors had undergone partial calcareous or ossific metamorphosis. The whole mass of the disease weighed seven pounds. The kidneys had undergone fatty degeneration. The lower part of the uterus was firmly adherent to the uterine tumors. The bladder contained a pint of very albuminous urine.

The Society then adjourned.

Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *April* 18, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, April 18th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, William H. Craig, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. H. Armsby, J. S. Bailey Boulware, Craig, Gregory, E. R. Hun, Lansing, Lewi, C. D. Mosher, D. V. O'Leary, Porter, Sabin, Thompson, Vanderpoel, and Wilson.

Also, Drs. C. S. Hoyt, D. M. Stimson, T. D. Crothers and W. G. Wheeler.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. W. G. Wheeler reported a case of "Diaphragmatic Hernia," as follows: A young man, a soldier in the Union army, aged thirty-five years, was wounded at the battle of Gettysburgh, by a ball entering his right side, between the ninth and tenth ribs, traversing the chest, the ball making its exit on the opposite side, just below the left axilla, and

then passing on through the left arm. There seemed to have been no pieces of clothing carried into the chest by the ball, and the wound passed through the usual course in such wounds of the chest. After seven months it healed, and he was able to perform light work at his trade, chair making. Subsequently he gave up all work. Exertion became more difficult. A cough, and pain in the chest continued to increase with gradual failure of strength and good health. Nine months previous to his death, other symptoms intervened, viz.: difficult digestion, pain in the left chest, and frequent or constant vomiting. On examination, a few weeks prior to death, the heart was found dislocated to the right side of the median line and somewhat upward. There was dullness in the lower part of the left chest and diminished respiratory murmurs. On the same side, as if the lung was compressed and pushed upward, there was diminished expansibility of the chest, but no bulging of the intercostal spaces. There was almost constant regurgitation of food and painful vomiting, soon after an attack of which he died.

The autopsy explained the vomiting as well as the other gastric symptoms. In both lungs were found recent tuberculous infiltrations. There were pleuritic adhesions on both sides. There was a caseous degeneration about the body of one of the dorsal vertebræ; about on the same line was found a transverse slit in the muscular part of the diaphragm, about two inches in length, and through this opening the whole stomach had been projected into the left pleural cavity, and was there held by a band of old lymph (the length and breadth of a finger). The wall of the stomach was ruptured and unhealthy, and its fluid contents had escaped into the cavity of the pleura; the violent vomiting caused this, and the rupture was the more immediate cause of his sudden death.

Dr. BOULWARE stated that he had had a case of the same kind at the Alms House, while he was attending physician there. The symptoms presented were those of strangu-

lated hernia; there was a mechanical obstruction of the bowels, constant vomiting, and the abdomen was tympanitic and distended. As soon as there was a movement throughout the alimentary canal, he was relieved, and quickly recovered, and left the institution. Five months after he was received at the City Hospital, laboring under he same symptoms; after a time he was relieved as before. Eighteen months after, he returned to the Alms House Hospital, suffering as in the first instance. He finally died, suffering from symptoms of strangulated hernia. The Doctor said he was unable to make a satisfactory diagnosis in the case before making the autopsy. He then found that a portion of the transverse colon had passed through a slit in the tendinous portion of the diaphragm. That portion of the herinal sac that came in contact with the ruptured portion of the diaphragm was adherent, thus preventing the return of the hernia. When the herinal sac became distended with gas, it so acted as to make it impossible for anything to pass through the colon.

Dr. Lewi presented the following history of a case of "Septic Crasis." Mrs. D., married, aged twenty-four years; the mother of three children; had always had good health; November twenty-first, suddenly complained of intense pain in both knees; 22d, the pain continued, and she had a sanguinolent discharge from the vagina; her lips were livid, and her general appearance bad. Dr. Boyd was called in consultation; he agreed with Dr. Lewi that the patient was about to miscarry, and advised the administration of ergot; during the evening she became delirious, and her skin assumed a dark color; 23d, still delirious, pulse imperceptible, legs livid, skin warm, and of a dark olive color. The uterine flowing had ceased; she gradually sank and died the same evening (23d), her skin becoming darker up to the last.

Autopsy—Thirteen hours after death. The body had been completely surrounded with ice since death.

External appearances—The skin resembled that of

dark mulatto; the body was swollen, and the surface crepitated upon pressure; upon incision the connective tissue was found to be filled with air, and under each breast was a large cavity separating the pectoral muscles from the ribs, and containing very offensive gas.

Thorax—The right pleural cavity contained a small quantity of dark, bloody serum. The lungs were congested; the heart was large and flaccid; the ventricles contained a small amount of dark tarry blood; the walls of the heart were fatty and were affected with Quain's disease.

Abdomen—A large quantity of gas escaped from the pectoral cavity upon laying it open. The liver was of normal size, of a dark olive color, and was softened; this was especially the case at the lower part of the right lobe, where it was converted into a diffluent brownish mass of about the consistency of thick cream. The spleen was enlarged, soft, and crepitated under pressure. Both kidneys were enveloped in a clot of dark blood, and no trace of renal structure could be seen on their section. They were black, soft, and apparently structureless. The uterus was enlarged and congested; it contained a dark grumous fluid in its cavity, but no trace of a fœtus could be found. The microscopic examination of the liver showed granular matter and oil globules, with an occasional altered hepatic cell. The tissues of the kidneys showed the same granular fatty condition, and a few of the uriniferous tubules were seen to be much altered by the generative process.

Dr. STIMSON gave the history of a case of "Girdling Ulcer of the Leg," and presented the limb, which he had recently amputated below the knee.

Dr. VANDERPOEL presented a specimen of cancer of the ovaries. On his first examination of the patient he had diagnosed the disease as fibrous tumor of the uterus, as he found, by internal examination, that a portion of the tumor lay back of the uterus. In the course of a month or two he was led to the conclusion that the tumor was of a can-

cerous nature, for he observed a small hardened swelling (scirrhus) in the left mammary gland. There was no hemorrhage, and the tumor rapidly increased in size, so that the patient appeared as if eight or nine months pregnant. The right ovary was ten inches long and seven and three-quarter inches broad. The left ovary was seven inches long and four and a half inches broad.

Dr. Boulware proposed for membership, Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Albany. The Doctor then moved that Dr. Crothers be invited to attend the meetings and participate in the deliberations of the Society.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and carried.

Dr. Vanderpoel stated, that he had lately attended a child, aged seven years, affected with cyanosis; there was lividity of the lips and of the extremities, and croupous spasms. After giving morphine, the convulsions passed away; soon after, the child fell back; respiration and movements of the heart were not perceptible. He commenced artificial respiration, and after two or three minutes he perceived faint evidences of respiration and circulation, which subsequently were fully established. The difficulty was owing, probably, to spasms of the glottis, the result of inflammation.

Dr. Vanderpoel then, by request, gave a report of the case of Mr. P. L. Gilbert, lately deceased. The following were the more interesting points to which he called attention: Mr. G.'s general health was good, though some three or four years ago he was much troubled by financial losses, and suffered from dyspeptic symptoms; following these he had uncomfortable sensations in the left breast at irregular intervals, and which usually were momentary in their duration. The unpleasant sensation alluded to, he had described as inducing him to grasp that side of the chest. It was experienced during severe physical exertion, and especially when walking up hill. Three weeks since he went to the post office apparently in his usual health, and upon returning to his place of business fell down and almost

immediately expired. Upon making a post-mortem examination, all the organs, with a single exception, were found healthy. The heart was normal in size, color and thickness; it did not present the paleness of tint usual in fatty degeneration. The tissue was flabby and friable, and under the microscope, it was found to have undergone fatty degeneration.

Dr. BOULWARE, by request, gave some details of a case of "Puerperal Convulsions," which had recently occurred in his practice. Two years ago he had delivered a woman, seven and a half months gone. Last week the same patient complained of difficult breathing, pain in the head, etc., and yesterday of unusual pain in the head. At 6:30 P. M., she had a convulsion, and up to 12 P. M., had ten convulsions, Labor commenced at 9 P. M., and at 7:30 A. M., she was delivered of a still-born child. Up to 12 o'clock M., she had had between twenty and thirty convulsions. Since the last convulsions she had remained comatose. There was no œdematous condition of any part.

Dr. LEWI remarked, that in his practice of between twenty and thirty years, with the usual number of obstetrical cases, his opinion being asked as to venesection, he stated he would not resort to blood-letting, unless the patient was exceedingly plethoric.

Dr. D. V. O'LEARY gave details of the case of a relative of his, who, after her first confinement, was seized with convulsions. Chloroform was administered for several hours without apparent effect. Bleeding was then resorted to, after which there were no more convulsions. Two years after, she was delivered of another child and again was seized with eclampsia. Bleeding was not resorted, to and the patient died twenty-four hours after convulsions first appeared.

Drs. HOYT and THOMPSON mentioned cases of eclampisa, in which bleeding was resorted to with apparent good effects. The Society then adjourned.

CHARLES H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

Albany, *May* 2, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital Monday, May 2d, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Wm. H. Craig, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, Boulware, Case, Craig, Devol, Edmeston, Lansing, L. Moore, Porter, Robertson, Stevens, Thompson, Wilson and Winne.

Also, Drs. W. G. Wheeler, Crothers, Hoyt, Morgan, and Halsey, of Otsego county, and Bowen, of Delaware county.

Dr. C. D. Mosher reported the following cases of "Cyanosis:"

Case I.—This infant was a seven months' child. It appeared well at birth, but after a few hours had what the attendants called "a fit." When the Doctor first saw her she appeared to suffer, grew blue and stopped breathing. There was no pulse, and no apparent movement of the heart; this continued for such a length of time that apparently the child could not recover The child would then gasp and finally succeeded in breathing. These attacks continued for two or three days, gradually diminishing in intensity. The child finally died from exhauetion.

Case II.—In this case the child was exceedingly flaccid at the moment of birth, and it cried vigorously. The surface was quite blue, and the symptoms the same as in the case before mentioned. The attacks followed each other at intervals of two hours. The child was comatose, blue and suddenly ceased to breath. Then after a spasmodic struggle, respiration and natural color was restored. After three or four days the child recovered.

Case III.—In this case, the child was born at full time; it was apparently well at birth; but after a few hours, symptoms similar to those just mentioned appeared, and continued at intervals. The child finally recovered.

The Doctor expressed himself in doubt, as to whether the treatment adopted was of any value.

Dr. CRAIG mentioned a case, which had lately occurred in his practice. It was a large child, weighing ten to twelve pounds, which cried vigorously at birth. After one or two minutes, it became of a livid, almost black, color; there was no pulsation of the cord, and no perceptible movements of the heart; there were respiratory movements of the abdomen. After a few minutes, the cord was cut; it did not bleed; after fifteen minutes it was tied; the cyanosis lasted for ten seconds, then respiration and the circulation was established. This condition lasted, at intervals, for four or five hours. Finally, respiration and the circulation were fully established; and, when last seen, the child was vigorous and apparently healthy.

Dr. L. MOORE then addressed the Society upon "Prolapsus of the Funis as a Complicaton of Labor."

On the 29th day of December, 1869, the Doctor was called to attend Mrs. V——, in labor with her fifth child. On examination, the os was found well dilated, the membranes intact, and the cord presenting behind them. The rupture of the membranes revealed the fact, that several inches of the funis presented in front of the head of the child, to the right side of the mother. Fœtal presentation; forehead towards right acetabulum. The treatment consisted in placing the mother on her left side, that the presenting cord might be uppermost, and during the interval between the pains, carefully pressing it upward, between the fœtal head and the adjacent surface of the womb. This position was maintained, so far as possible, during the ensuing pain, the interval, and the succeeding one. Then, on withdrawing the finger, the cord disappeared; and two hours later, the woman was delivered of a fine, living child. The subject is an important one; for in more than one-half of the cases, when the cord is the presenting part, the child is lost.

As most cases of shoulder, breech, and feet presentation

are complicated by pressure upon the cord, a great increase of the mortality observed in normal presentations results from this cause, and it is evident that a large share of the mortality of children, incident to child-birth, results from some obstruction of fœtal circulation, by pressure upon the funis during the delivery of the child. This being true, not only in prolapsus of the cord, but the kindred complications demand careful attention.

In a case of prolapsus of the funis, the membranes are not to be ruptured until full dilatation has taken place; before this, pressure can hardly exert any destructive influence upon the circulation of the fœtus. Next comes the replacement of the cord within the womb. It is an important fact to notice, that after reposition the cord is most likely to be retained if the woman lies on the side opposite to that from which the funis prolapses. The cord is sometimes retained by means of a piece of whalebone, or some similar substance, to the end of which a loop of tape is attached. Various other appliances have been used with more or less success.

After all, it is conceded that the fingers and hand furnishes, in most cases, the best means for the accomplishment of the desired end. In many cases, as most of us have had reason to realize, all means fail, and we have nothing to do but to guard the cord, so far as possible, from the pressure so liable to compromise the life of the child.

Dr. Wheeler stated, that he had often been unsuccessful in such cases. He had succeeded in Dr. Thomas' postural method in few cases, but in very many he regarded the method as impracticable, especially where the labor was long. He then alluded to the various methods that had been proposed for replacing and retaining the cord, and stated that in one case he had succeeded by passing a small needle into the cord longitudinally, then taking two or three loops and carrying them up. A Massachusetts physician, whose name he did not remember, had published

a paper within a year or two, in which he advocated a new and ingenious plan, which he (the originator) had succeeded with. It consisted in reeling the cord on the body of the child, by rotating the child on its long diameter. Since reading that article, he had succeeded, by the method alluded to, in a single case. The patient is to be placed on the left side, the knees drawn up; the right hand is to be passed high up into the vagina, and then spread on the surface. During the absence of a pain, the child is to be rotated; a complete rotation of the child reels up about thirteen inches of the cord. The hand is to be placed towards the umbilicus of the mother; the child may then be rotated in either direction, but always on its long diameter; the placenta is the fixed point. Many cases occur where this rotation cannot be accomplished.

Dr. MOORE stated, that in his case, the shoulder pesented with the cord; he delivered at once, and saved the child.

Remarks, upon the method mentioned, were made by various gentlemen, after which

Dr. LANSING said, that he thought the members did not give credit enough to Dr. Thomas' postural method, which had been favorably regarded in this country and abroad. He had had two cases of prolapsus of the funis. He, personally, had not much confidence in the effect of posture, or in his ability to continue it for a sufficient length of time. The two cases he had had did not impress him as to the great danger in this complication of labor; in both cases the child survived. One was a breech presentation; there was a rapid delivery, and the child was partially asphyxiated. In the second case, after attempting to fix the cord, and failing, he trusted to nature, who did not disappoint him. After half an hour's labor the child was delivered; it showed signs of life on cutting the cord; blood escaped, and after half an hour the child appeared in good condition and still survives.

Dr. LANSING then introduced Dr. Halsey, of Otsego county, and Dr. Bowen, of Delaware county.

Dr. Devol then offered the following:

Resolved, That the President and Secretary of this Society be requested to correspond with the Secretary of War, asking him to send to them, for the use of this Society, the reports of the Commissioner on the Botany, Zoology, etc., on the route of the Pacific railroad, in six quarto volumes.

The motion being seconded, was voted upon and was carried.

Dr. Stevens then presented a specimen of "Osteo Sarcoma of the Femur," with the following history: The subject was a girl aged fifteen years, whose mother died of consumption a year before; in the summer of 1869, she took cold in the knee from wearing wet stockings, which caused her to limp; she afterwards fell, striking upon the left knee; it caused great pain, and she was unable to stand; sometime after she fell again, striking upon the same knee. After this last injury the knee gradually increased in size. Within two or three months a more rapid increase took place, and the diseased part became exceedingly painful. The part was amputated, not with any strong belief of permanently curing the patient, but in the hope that it might relieve her distress, and probably lengthen her life. Since the operation she has done well. Nelaton says that when cancerous deposits involve the end of the bone, they do not involve the cartilages. It was so, the Doctor said, in this case. The disease appeared to have commenced within, and to have progressed outwardly. The Doctor said that it appeared to him that the fall simply accelerated the development of the disease. The bone appeared healthy, but the periosteum was loose.

The characteristic symptom in the case was the intense and constant pain which increased as the disease developed, and hence there was a great reduction of the strength of the patient. Upon examination of the specimen, suppuration was not found in any part. There were colloid masses in the bony structure and ossified nodules, half the size of a marble, in the connective tissue.

The report of the above case was followed by a discussion as to the proper time of tying, whether after or before division of the umbilical cord, and as to whether it should be divided while it pulsated, or after.

After which the Society adjourned, to meet in two weeks. CHAS. H. PORTER, *Secretary.*

SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING.

ALBANY, *May* 16, 1870.

The Society met at the City Hospital, Monday, May 16, 1870, at 8 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. CRAIG, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. BABCOCK, J. S BAILEY, CASE, CRAIG, DEVOL, EDMESTON, E. R. HUN, KNOWLTON, MCMURDY, L. MOORE, C. D. MOSHER, NORTHROP, D. V. O'LEARY, PORTER, QUACKENBUSH, SABIN, THOMPSON, VANDERPOELand WINNE.

Also, Drs. Hoyt, Crothers, Morgan, Stimson and Heinze.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Dr. T. D. CROTHERS reported a case of "Fracture of the Head of the Humerus."

Dr. QUACKENBUSH then addressed the Society on "Pelvic Cellulitis," at considerable length, which was followed by a discussion, in which various members participated.

The subject of the pay of ward or district physicians being referred to,

Dr. EDMESTON moved the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Mayor in regard to the duties and pay of District Physician.

The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

Dr. DEVOL moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That we, as members of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, decline any appointment by the Mayor or Common Council, as District Physician for the sum of one hundred dollars per annum.

It was then moved and seconded that the consideration of the above resolution be laid over until a subsequent meeting. Adoped.

Dr. Vanedrpoel moved the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Governors of the Hospital for furnishing to the Society accommodations for their meetings during the past season, and that the Secretary be directed to forward to the Governors a copy of this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Babcock, and was unanimously adopted.

The Society then adjourned.

Charles H. Porter, *Secretary.*

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Albany, *June* 14, 1870.

The Society met at the Common Council chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, June 14th, at 3 o'clock P. M.

The President, Dr. Craig, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Drs. J. S. Bailey, W. H. Bailey, Boulware, Craig, Dunkelmeyer, Fowler, Freeman, Gregory, Heusted, E. R. Hun, Knowlton, March, J. W. Moore, L. Moore, C. D. Mosher, Northrop, Porter, Quackenbush, C. A. Robertson, R. H. Sabin, P. P. Staats, Vanderpool, Van Derveer and Wilson.

Also, Drs. E. H. Davis, J. R. Davidson, A. P. Ten Eyck, and Wm. Morgan.

The minutes of the annual meeting, 1869, were read and approved.

Dr. C. A. Robertson, Chairman of the Censors, reported that the Censors had examined, and found satisfactory, the credentials of the following named gentlemen, viz.:

Drs. J. Myers Briggs, Eustis H. Davis, John H. Bigelow, A. P. Ten Dyck, H. D. Losee, Daniel M. Stimson and Wm. Morgan. Dr. T. D. Crothers had also been proposed, but had not exhibited any credentials to the Censors.

It was then moved and seconded that the report be accepted. Carried.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved that Dr. Crothers be admitted as a member of the Society.

Dr. BOULWARE moved, as an amendment to Dr. Quackenbush's resolution, that Dr. Heinze also be admitted as a member.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH said, that it was unusual to make any objection to the admission of a gentleman. When there was any doubts, a strict compliance with the letter of the law was obligatory. Then let the proposed party show his credentials. In such a case as that of Dr. Crothers it seemed unnecessary. He personally knew the Doctor to be a graduate of the Albany Medical College. Dr. Crothers had complied with all the requirements of the laws of the Society.

Dr. ROBERTSON said, that when he joined the Society, he was very properly obliged to show his credentials, and he thought that that was the usual course.

Dr. SABIN remarked, that he believed, that Dr. March had offered a resolution, that all graduates of the Albany Medical College be admitted without examination of their credentials.

Dr. BOULWARE then moved, as an additional amendment to Dr. Quackenbush's resolution, that Dr. Geoghegan be admitted as a member of the Society. It was true that the certificates that Dr. Groghegan had handed in were not satisfactory to the Censors, but if their recommendation was not necessary in one case, why in another?

The PRESIDENT said that he regarded the motion of Dr. Q., as amended, to be out of order, and requested the Secretary to read Section III of the By-Laws, which was done.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH thought, that if a gentleman presented, the evidence of a Professor, as to his graduating, that that was all that was required; it was the highest testimony that could be given.

Dr. BOULWARE remarked, that Dr. Q. seemed to think

that the statement of a Professor was the highest and most satisfactory evidence; it might be so, if Professors did not sometimes *lie.*

Dr. Quackenbush said, that he thought that the report of the Censors must be adopted, as it was entirely correct. The Censors had acted faithfully, and could not have done otherwise than they had done, and still obey the laws of the Society. But the Society could do more—supposing, after the Censors had made their report, another man comes up, certainly, if the Society choose, the new man could be elected a member.

Dr. Robertson said the office of Censor either meant something, or it did not mean anything; when he was appointed chairman of the Censors, he supposed that it meant something, and he had required the credentials before considering the case of any one. Thus, Prof. John M. Bigelow came and asked him if it was necessary for him to bring his diploma? He had replied, that it was necessary; for, although he had no reason to doubt but that he had one, it was necessary for the Censors to see it before his name could be favorably acted upon; Prof. Bigelow had exhibited his diploma, and therefore his name was presented.

Dr. Crothers had referred him to his (Dr. C's.) name in the Albany Medical College catalogue among the list of graduates of that institution. But he (Dr. Robertson) thought that such credentials would not do, as the catalogues were untrustworthy. The officers of the College had published for several years the name of a certain gentleman (Dr. Thomas Hun) as being professor in that institution. Upon his resignation, the Trustees of the College had, in fact, pronounced the catalogue a sham and a lie, inasmuch as they said that the gentleman referred to was never elected to fill the position which they had announced him as filling year after year.

Dr. Lamb moved that Dr. Quackenbush's resolution be offered in writing.

Dr. WM. H. BAILEY said that there was no motion before the house.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH remarked that he believed that no decision had been had on the motion offered by him, and that discussion was in order.

The PRESIDENT then decided that the motion offered by Dr. Q. was out of order.

On appeal from the decision of the President, the chair was sustained.

Dr. VANDERPOEL moved that the by-laws be temporarily suspended. Lost.

A count was called for. Result: Eleven for and nine against.

Motion lost, two-thirds being required.

Dr. WM. H. BAILEY moved that the gentlemen reported upon favorably by the Censors be admitted as members of this Society.

Dr. QUACKENBUSH moved to amend the motion by adding the name of Dr. Crothers to the list; and

Dr. BOULWARE moved to amend the amendment of Dr. Quackenbush by adding to the list the names of Drs. Geoghegan and Heinze.

The original motion was then adopted.

The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership:

By Dr. Freeman: Dr. Edward Yates, Bath, Rensselaer county.

By Dr. L. Moore: Dr. Q. D. Featherstonaugh, Cohoes.

By Dr. Wilson: Drs. Charles Scattergood and L. R. Boyce, Albany.

By Dr. Boulware: Dr. Wm. Geoghegan.

Dr. CROTHERS then presented his diploma.

Dr. ROBERTSON, after examination, reported favorably on Dr. Crothers' credentials.

Dr. CROTHERS then said that he hoped that the Society were now satisfied; they had wasted an hour on a frivolous matter. He had not received information that it was

necessary for him to exhibit his diploma to the Censors.

Dr. Freeman said that he was gratified with the explanation of Dr. Crothers, as it was not his intention to evade the by-laws of the Society, but he was ignorant that it was necessary to present his credentials. It seemed rather that the Censors were derelict in their duty.

Dr. Boulware, in reply, stated that he was one of the Censors, and as such, denounced the remarks of Dr. Freeman as uncalled for, and demanded of him to particularize wherein the Censors had been derelict. Dr. Boulware continued, that Dr. Crothers had been officially informed by the Secretary that his name had been proposed for membership, and that if he wished to become a member, he should present his credentials to the Censors, and moreover, that he (Dr. B.) had previously informed Dr. Crothers that if his credentials could be seen by any one of the Censors, that would be all that was necessary. The Censors had taken upon themselves to call at the residences of certain of those proposed for membership, to examine the credentials of those that were framed, and would have called at the office of Dr. Crothers, if he had intimated to any one of them that he had credentials to be examined. The committee did not regard it as their duty to search for credentials of those who were proposed for membership.

Dr. Robertson stated that he could not regard it as the duty of the Censors to run around and find out whether a man had a diploma or not; their duty was to examine such credentials as were presented to them.

Dr. Freeman said, from Dr. Crothers' own statement, he had received no notification to present his diploma to the Censors. It was customary, he remarked, when he was a Censor, to notify applicants for membership, and to examine their credentials at their offices, when framed.

Dr. C. D. Mosher, Vice-President, then delivered the

semi-annual address on "The Treatment of Croup without Emetics."

After alluding to the severity of the disease, and the great mortality which occurs, he referred to the various modes of treatment which have been proposed, and stated that for a considerable time he had adopted the following treatment: The medicinal agent employed was the sub-iodide of mercury, not that found in the shops, but that obtained by the mutual decomposition which takes place when calomel and iodide of potassium are mixed together and brought in contact with water. For a child one year of age, one grain each, of calomel and iodide of potassium, are ground together with sugar of milk, and mixed with one grain of Dover's powder. The mass to be divided into six powders, and one grain given every half hour, carefully avoiding an emetic effect. For older children, correspondingly larger quantities were to be administered. The green oxide of mercury of the shops, he stated, did not produce so good an effect as that which he employed. By this simple treatment he had obtained most satisfactory results, far better results, he said, than with any other plan that he had tried. He then reported a number of cases of croup, treated by this method, and urged the members to try the plan and report the results of their experience to the Society.

After remarks by various gentlemen, regarding the treatment of croup, Dr. E. H. DAVIS reported a case of "Atresia Vagina," which he had successfully operated upon five years since. The patient was a married woman, thirty-two years of age, well-formed, and was subject to frequent headaches and to dizziness. On examination, occlusion of the vagina was discovered, immediately posterior to the meatus urinarius. An opening was found a little posterior to the center of the occlusion, into which a small probe was passed to the depth of half an inch. The patient being placed under the influence of chloroform, an incision was made on either side of the urethra, in a direction obliquely back-

ward and inward, bringing the incision together a little below the orifice of the urethra. The incision was afterwards extended by a transverse movement of the knife, until the mouth of the uterus was reached. The length of the incision was four and a half inches. To prevent adhesion of the surface of the wound, a rubber rectum tube was introduced. This was frequently cleansed and was worn for one month afterwards; astringent washes were employed. The patient recovered without untoward symptoms. After the operation her health gradually improved. She menstrated at irregular intervals. At no time has she been pregnant.

After remarks by members upon the subject of Dr. Davis' paper, Dr. C. D. Mosher moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Davis for his report.

Carried.

Dr. W. H. Bailey then moved that Dr. Crothers be admitted a member of the Society. Carried.

Dr. Wm. H. Bailey then called the attention of the Society to the fact, that some time ago he was requested to be one of the Curators of the Medical College, together with Drs. Craig, Babcock and others. He had noticed that the names of the gentlemen mentioned, as well as his own, were dropt from the list of Curators, in the recently published circular of the College. He referred to the subject, not because it was of itself of any importance, not because it could be esteemed an honor to be connected with the Medical College, in its present condition, but because it was an ungracious an ungentlemanly proceeding to remove thus the names of gentlemen who had been solicited, by the proper authorities of the institution, to do a service, and benefit that institution by their countenance and labor.

Dr. Craig said that he had received the appointment of Curator without solicitation, and had faithfully performed the duties of the position for several years. That he regarded the omission of the names mentioned, his own

included, as unmanly and cowardly, and of the order of a sneak thief's operation.

Dr. VAN DERVEER, on being questioned, said that he had nothing to say on the subject. He thought that the matter was brought up to bring the College before the public.

Dr. MOSHER remarked, that when any reference is made to the College, it is represented by some as being made for persecution; they would give the impression that the College is as precious as the tabernacle in the time of Solomon. It is time to do away with this mock sentimentality, and to call things by their right names. It is highly proper, he said, for the Society to take action in regard to this matter of the Curators, and to express, officially, the estimation in which the ungentlemanly proceeding was held. He graduated at the College, and had its best interests at heart, and therefore he was desirous that it should have a good reputation, but this was not to be acquired by regarding, as proper, such discreditable proceedings as that under consideration, nor by passing it over in silence.

Dr. VAN DERVEER, on being questioned as to whether any official action had been taken in the matter, replied, that he did not know of any action being taken by the Faculty regarding the Censors.

Dr. VANDERPOEL then remarked, that the list of gentlemen dropped from the list of Curators were appointed by the Faculty, who had asked them for their services; that now to drop their names, without notice, was unmannerly and ungenerous. Believing that gentlemanly instincts prevailed in the Society, he would move the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Society, that the action on the part of those who have dropped the names of Drs. Craig, Bailey and Babcock, as Curators of the Albany Medical College, as the Society is informed, without official action on the part of the Faculty, and without notifying those gentlemen of any such action, is improper, and is regarded by this Society as ungentlemanly and discourteous to those gentlemen.

The resolution being seconded, was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Quackenrush then offered the following:

Whereas, A movement has been initiated, by Dr. James S. Bailey, to publish the second volume of the Albany Medical Annals and Biographies; and

Whereas, Such publication should receive the official sanction of the Society; therefore,

Resolved, That Dr. James S. Bailey and ——— ——— be a committee to publish such Annals; which Annals will contain the Transactions of this Society for the last nineteen years.

The names of Drs. Chas. H. Porter and T. D. Crothers* were then added as members of the committee of publication, and an amendment offered that the Annals be published to date, including the proceedings of the present meeting.

The resolution, as amended, was then adopted.

Dr. Crothers then moved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the city papers.

The motion being seconded, was adopted.

The Society then adjourned.

Chas. H. Porter, *Secretary.*

* Dr. Crothers has since resigned.

BIOGRAPHIES.

[Inasmuch as Dr. S. D. Willard has written, and published in Volume I, of the Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, biographical notices of a number of members that have died since June 1851, the Committee have thought best to refer to them and not republish them in this volume. There are other members of this Society that were also members of the State Medical Society. Biographical sketches having been written of them for that Society, and published in their Transactions, that were entirely satisfactory to their friends, we therefore reproduce them in this volume, that we may present biographical sketches within these volumes of each deceased member having belonged to this Society, up to June, 1870.]

FREDERICK C. ADAMS.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Vol. I, page 359.

WILLIAM BAY, M. D.

BY S. O. VANDERPOEL, M. D.*

The preparation of a biographical sketch of the late William Bay, of Albany, is with me a labor of love. When I first made his acquaintance, he had nearly reached the age of four score, yet he was still quite active in the labors of his profession, still faithful and devoted to the responsibilities he assumed. Gradually withdrawing as bodily infirmities increased, it was my privilege to see much of him, and with a mind still clear and active, heard him recount many incidents of past experience, and learned from him more fully than ever before, that obligatory as is a high standard of professional attainments, there should

* See Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York for 1866, page 317.

still be that true sympathy and interest in the welfare of patients, which acts as an electric tie, brightening and encouraging by our approach, and which palliates and soothes when mere professional skill is of no avail. Around these declining years was the calm halo of a happy old age. Bright and cheerful in disposition, strong and abiding in the hopes and promises which religion affords, he was ministered to by devoted filial affection. When death came there was no occasion to mourn; he had lived far beyond the age allotted to man; his work was fully done.

Dr. Bay was of Huguenot ancestry. Fleeing from persecution in France, they emigrated to Holland, subsequently to Ireland, and from thence to this country, and settled in Maryland in 1720. The father of Dr. Bay, an able and accomplished lawyer, settled in Albany. He was a man of courteous and accomplished manners, a member of the committee of "Public Safety," while his home was the abode of cultivated and attractive hospitality. Here Dr. Bay was born, the 14th of October, 1773, on the eve of the stirring events of the Revolution. While yet a lad, his father removed to Claverack, Columbia county. At a suitable age he entered Princeton College, New Jersey, then the most prominent school of the Middle States, and from which his father had previously graduated. He remained in college until his senior year, when ill health for a time obliged him to relinquish his studies. Having determined to study medicine, he went to New York in 1794, and became a private pupil of Dr. William Pitt Smith, an eminent physician in that city. Dr. Smith held also the position of Health Officer to the port, and, in the discharge of its laborious duties, fell a victim to inflammation of the lungs in 1795. In the interval of four months, between his death and the appointment of a successor, Dr. Bay temporarily filled the position. He next became a pupil of Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell, and remained in his office until he graduated as doctor in medicine in May, 1797.

His Thesis attracted attention, and was published under

the following title: "An inaugural dissertation on the operation of pestilential fluids upon the large intestines termed by nosologists, dysentery," by William Bay, citizen of the State of New York: T. & I. Swords, 1797, 8vo., pp. 109. This was elaborately reviewed in Vol. I of the Medical Repository, p. 236, et seq. It will not be uninteresting to recur for a moment to the views entertained of the nature of dysentery as presented in the paper. This was upon the theory of "pestilential fluids" existing or generated in the intestines. He asserts that the blame thrown on the bile, as tending to become accrimonious and putrid, and thereby generating the summer and autumnal diseases, is altogether unfounded; and that on the contrary, the large quantity of it produced in the diseases called bilious, is a bountiful provision of nature, to counteract the pernicious matter which forms the real cause of such fevers. Detailing then a chemical analysis of the fæces, as also the results of different combinations of gases, he asserts that the noxious fluid is formed in the large intestines by the chemical union of azote and oxygen, and immediately produces dysentery, by coming in contact with their coats, or arising from the immense masses of putrefaction which overspread so large a portion of the earth in the form of vapor; it may be introduced into the bodies of men by the lungs, by the stomach, or by the pores of the skin, and in this manner produce the same disease. This difference as to the source of the morbid cause will readily account for the sporadic, endemic and epidemic appearance of dysentery. The preventive measures and treatment are the legitimate deductions of the above theory. As preventives he enjoins, 1st, abstinence from animal food, except its oils and fats, whenever the disease is prevalent; 2d, avoid costivness, and 3d, removal from an infected atmosphere. The curative indications are, 1st, to remove ceptic and feculent matter from the alimentary canal; 2d, to correct the vitiated state of the atmosphere; 3d, to allay the inflammation and other injuries which the alimentary canal may have sustained by the

original cause of the disease. We cannot stop to detail the varied methods by which the above indications are to be carried out. The reviewer then states fully the objections which present themselves to the above theory, and concludes his paper as follows: "Whatever variety of opinion or discordancy of facts may exist on this subject, we are persuaded the most perfect unanimity will prevail in considering the principles here delivered by Mr. B., and supported by so many powerful arguments, as highly interesting to the science of medicine and to the welfare of mankind. And we are convinced the same unanimity will be felt in ascribing to our author the praise of diligence, ingenuity, and a comprehensive survey of the subject on which he treats. This early fruit of his studies, worthy of a more advanced age and mature experience, leaves us no room to doubt that his future professional career will be honorable to himself and useful to his country."

Doctor Bay returned from New York to his home in Claverack, where he immediately began the pursuit of his profession. His business and his reputation alike rapidly increased, and his skill was sought throughout an extensive distr ct; but after a few years he found a large country practice exceedingly laborious, and in 1810 he was induced to remove to Albany, where he formed a business relation with Dr. McClelland, who died a few months subsequently, and left Dr. Bay at once in a large field of practice. So well did he sustain himself, that he soon became a leading practitioner.

Dr. Bay married Catharine, a sister of William W. Van Ness, in 1797; they had four childred, three of whom are still living. Mrs. Bay was a beautiful example of a cultivated christian woman. She lived with her husband sixty-eight years, and died at the age of eighty-seven years, on the 24th of January, 1864.

Upon the completion of his half century of practice, the profession of Albany gave him a public dinner in honor of the occasion, and in appreciation of his long and faithful

service as a citizen and a physician. It was a compliment of which he had reason to feel proud, for it was the unanimous expression of his professional associates. Every physician, save the venerable Dr. Eights, detained by illness, and the Drs. Wendell, by family affliction, were present. It took place at Congress Hall, on the 30th of March, 1847. Dr. T. Romeyn Beck presided, with Dr. Joel A. Wing as Vice-President. The remarks of Dr. Beck express so pertinently the estimation in which Dr. Bay was held, that we extract the opening and closing sentences: "I congratulate you, gentlemen, on this meeting, and on the cause of it. We are united to pay our respect to a worthy and venerable practitioner, who has just completed a tour of service extending through fifty long years. This half century has been spent, not in the field, nor yet in the Senate chamber, but in the active discharge of the labors incident to our profession. Peace, as has been well said, has also its triumphs, and we are, I imagine, in the discharge of our duty, when in the midst of war* we hold up to the public view objects equally worthy of honorable ambition, and more consonant to the dictates of reason and the best interests of humanity.

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This meeting does not require the aid of flattery; nor would it be acceptable to our guest. We honor through him our common profession. We renew our vows to increase our stores of knowledge by study, and by the results of experience. Finally, we congratulate Dr. Bay, and ourselves that his life has been prolonged to this period, to witness around him so many of his contemporaries and juniors, willing to pay him the homage of their respect." He concluded with the following sentiment: "Our venerable guest. Length of days and an honorable life are already his. May his declining years be as happy as his former ones have been useful."

The response of Dr. Bay was eminently warm-hearted and modest.

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* Mexican War.

As an evidence of the estimation of his fellow citizens, Hon. Teunis Van Vechten, who was a guest on the occasion, offered the following sentiment:

"Dr. William Bay: The skillful and experienced physician, the sympathizing friend, the safe counselor and the humble christian; who during his long professional life has ever been obedient to the calls of suffering humanity, whether proceeding from the hovels of the wretched, or the halls of the wealthy; who ever had a heart to feel for the suffering and a hand ready to extend relief. It must to him be particularly gratifying in this, the evening of his professional career, to receive the commendations of his professional brethren, and to have bestowed upon him the plaudit of well done, good and faithful servant."

Mr. Thurlow Weed, also, a guest, in the course of an editorial upon the occasion, remarks: "Among the things in Dr. Bay's professional life, remembered to his credit, was the fact that he had never refused or neglected to respond to a call for his services. At all times, in all weather, far or near, he obeyed every summons."

Dr. Bay continued in more or less active practice for a period of thirteen years subsequent to this dinner, completing sixty-three years of professional life; at first withdrawing from its more active duties, and at length entirely from its cares.

As his manhood had been spent in usefulness and good works, so his last years were peaceful and happy. Were I privileged to narrate the more intimate relations of the domestic circle, it would only be to illustrate more fully the cheerful and loving traits of his character, the happiness of a well spent life and the bright hopes of the Christian's future. The picture which gathers around the mind's eye, as I saw him again and again, in the enjoyment of loved domestic relations, with his venerated partner spared to him, and his every wish anticipated by the promptings of devoted filial affection, will long remain vivid and beautiful. He suffered few of the infirmities of age, until within

a few days previous to his death. His mind retained much of its clearness and activity, for he took a deep interest in all the passing events of the rebellion; while his body was singularly exempt from the aches and pains of the aged, his sleep was always long and refreshing, his appetite uniform and unimpaired.

He died September 7th, 1865, having nearly completed his ninety-second year.

Dr. Bay's disposition was cheerful and genial, and he readily imparted this spirit to all about him. His presence and manner in the sick-room always inspired hope, for besides these qualities he showed that true interest and sympathy in the welfare of his patients, which acts as an electric cord to brighten and encourage, and which often palliates and soothes where medicines fail to reach.

As a physician, Dr. Bay ranked among the first of his compeers. His whole time and energies were devoted to his calling, and it is among the proud mementoes of his life, that he never declined a call to suffering humanity. He was especially skillful as an obstetrician, and his aid and and counsel were sought for in all difficult cases. To his younger compeers he was ever kind and encouraging; his advice could be freely sought and was cheerfully given.

Dr. B. P. Staats paid the following beautiful tribute to his memory at the meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, called to express the feelings of the profession:

"In 1821, I was appointed County Physician, and in 1822 one of the two City Physicians. This placed in my care the sick of the jail, about half of the sick at the alms house, and one-half the paupers of the city. For a young and inexperienced practitioner, this was a responsible undertaking, and I was fully aware that there was safety in counsel. I had formed an acquaintance with Dr. Bay, and my calls on him were not a few; and whether my patients were rich or poor, bond or free, he *never* refused, and all times cheerfully rendered me all the assistance required, without fee or reward; and during a residence of forty-five

years in this city, I have never heard a word of reproach against him, but on the contrary have heard hundreds bless him, for his kindness and good treatment towards them. May we all live as he lived, and die as he died."

There was one point of his character, brighter than any to which we have alluded; indeed which probably was the touchstone of his good deeds—his Christian life. We cannot portray this feature more vividly, and truthfully, than in repeating the words of his pastor, Rev. Dr. Clark:

"Dr. Bay was a man of strong faith in Christ as his Saviour, and in Christianity as a Divine religion. Those who knew him intimately can testify to this marked feature of his piety. He never doubted. Having planted his feet upon the Rock of Ages, he stood there firmly, trusting in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. He was also a man of prayer. He lived in close communion with his God, and he delighted in religious ministrations.

"Dr. Bay was also a Christian in his family. I feel a delicacy in lifting the veil from those domestic scenes, that have received the impress of his private virtues. But I may say his devotion as a husband, and his uniform kindness and affection as a father, render his memory most sweet to his survivors. Nor has it been necessary for him to wait until he reached the other world, to receive the rewards of his own faithfulness. In the untiring ministrations of those who anticipated his every want and wish, he reaped the fruits of his affection ere his departure from earth.

"During the time I have known Dr. Bay, he has been repeatedly called to walk through the deep waters of affliction. About two years and a half ago I sat at his table with six members of his family, four of whom have passed from time into eternity. Among the number was his beloved companion in life, who for sixty-eight years, had been the partner of his joys and sorrows. For sixty-five years Mrs. Bay had walked on earth in the light of her Saviour's countenance; and had illustrated in her life the purest Christian virtues. Never shall I forget the

scene, as the aged husband, with tears in his eyes, and a sad oppression upon his heart, held the hand of his wife, as her spirit was struggling to be released from its earthly tabernacle, and to soar away to the skies. But how short has been their separation. She died on the 24th of January, 1864, and in a little more than a year and a half he follows her to the realms of the blessed. How happy the reunion. How glorious to dwell together in the heavenly home of which the earthly was but the type and shadow."

LEWIS C. BECK, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 292.

T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 285.

JAMES M. BROWN, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 315.

J. H. CASE, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 39.

WILLIAM F. CARTER, M. D.

BY JOSEPH W. MOORE, M. D.*

[Read before the Albany County Medical Society, Nov. 1866.]

William Frederick Carter was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, March 24, 1812. His father, Thomas Carter,

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* See Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York for 1867, page 442.

while a young man was an energetic and skillful sea captain, and afterwards a large ship-owner, and extensively engaged in commerce. His grandfather was one of the first importing merchants of that old town.

William was one of a second pair of twins, and his twin brother, who adopted his father's profession, is now living in Liverpool, England, and greatly resembles the Doctor both in person and character. He was educated at the old Academy at Newburyport, under that thorough and strict disciplinarian, Alfred W. Pike, among whose pupils several have become distinguished and prominent men. Owing to his father's reverse of fortune by losses at sea, during the war of 1815 and afterwards, his education was not continued as it would otherwise have been, and at fourteen years of age he was apprenticed in the drug store of Dr. David Kimball, of Portsmouth, N. H., where he acquired a thorough knowledge of that business. He there became acquainted with Dr. Timothy Upham, who was about removing to Waterford, N. Y., and who being much interested in the smart, quick-witted boy, whose development physically and mentally were beyond his age, wished him to accompany and study medicine with him at Waterford. He accordingly left Portsmouth when he was nineteen, went home to his mother at Newburyport (his father having died a few yesrs previous), and spent the summer in studying Latin, and then spent a year with Dr. Upham. He afterwards attended medical lectures in Boston, and a second course at Dartmouth College, where he received his diploma in 1834. He commenced practice in Hagaman's Mills, Montgomery county, N. Y., but not finding sufficient encouragement, soon left there and removed to Cohoes in 1835.

From this time until his last illness, the Doctor lived and practiced in Cohoes.

As a physician, he took a very high stand in the profession. Naturally of an inquiring disposition, he was familiar with nearly all the discoveries and improvements

in the science of medicine. His range of reading was not, however, limited to professional works, for he was at home in nearly every department of science and literature.

He had a critical taste for painting, and the walls of his office were adorned with some valued specimens of art. His memory was remarkably retentive—his judgment of men and things exceedingly accurate, and usually expressed in simple and strong language, without fear or favor.

He had an innate detestation of everything which savored of hypocrisy, and appeared to take delight in exposing it. To the poor he was a friend indeed; his heart and hand were ever open to the appeals of want and suffering. His charity was quiet and unostentatious. He acted on the scripture maxim, "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth." In his manner he was somewhat eccentric, which was due in a great degree not only to the natural bias of his character, but to the habits which usually beset those who have not found the most endearing relations of life. He was perhaps so devoted and married to his profession, that he had but little desire or disposition to form what are sometimes called "entangling alliances." To those who were not well acquainted with him, his manner at first sight seemed to lack that tender sympathy toward his patient which is so necessary in our profession; but to those who knew him best, there was not the shadow of a doubt that his heart was full of the kindest and most tender sympathy. To rich as well as poor he was the "beloved physician." In many a home his name and memory are precious—associated as it is with deliverances from dangerous sickness, and kindness and sympathy towards departed friends. The gloom which the announcement of his death cast over a whole community, the crowd of sincere mourners who came to his funeral—the tears which were shed over his coffin, prove what a strong hold he had upon the attachment and affections of the many among whom he had labored for so

long a period. His office, which was a familiar resort to his intimate friends, was not in itself attractive; the dust was allowed to remain undisturbed, and books, papers, surgical instruments and tobacco were scattered around without any reference to the law of order; but it mattered not what were his surroundings, these were forgotten, as we listened to his conversation, which was often exceedingly interesting and suggestive.

Through a long and active professional life, Dr. Carter's health was almost unexceptionably good; enabling him to do an extensive and most laborious business, with hardly the interruption of a day's illness. The illness which, if not actually the last, was doubtless the one which paved the way for the final fatal result, came upon him about the 20th of April, 1866. At this time he had an erysipelatous inflammation of the external aspect of the right leg, extending from the ankle nearly to the knee. The first few days he refused to be removed from his office, where he could receive no proper care, and it was only after typhoid symptoms manifested themselves, and occasional delirium, warned his many friends that his disease was of too serious a nature to be trifled with that he was persuaded to be carried to his brother's house. The inflammation at first assumed a favorable course, and under appropriate treatment the typhoid symptoms in a great degree subsided.

There were a few points which suppurated and developed small pustules, but these soon healed, and all local redness and tenderness disappeared. It was now with reason anticipated that there would be a prompt return to health; but though convalescence seemed at first in a fair way of becoming established, the return of irritative fever soon rendered it evident that some insidious mischief was going on. On a careful examination of the limb being made, it was discovered that the femoral vein was tense and corded, and other unmistakable symptoms of crural phlebitis soon supervened. There was soon an effusion of coagulable

lymph in the upper third of the thigh, and daily examinations were carefully made to detect the first evidences of the anticipated suppuration. I at first detected evidences of the existence of pus, and expressed my conviction to the Doctor, who was adverse to the admission of the fact, and Dr. March was called. By this time there was no longer any mistake, and if any doubts had existed, they were speedily resolved when Dr. March opened the thigh, giving vent to nearly two quarts of healthy pus. Again, a marked improvement took place in the patient's condition, to be followed at a little later period by the symptoms of septicæmia.

After a tedious period of alternate hope and despondency, convalescence was fairly established, and in the early part of July, the Doctor was finally so far recovered as to undertake a journey to Newburyport, Massachusetts, when rest, fresh air and the cheerful society of relations and friends, effected an almost complete restoration to health.

Had the Doctor prolonged his stay there, this obituary would perhaps have not been written, but unfortunately, the habits of a long and busy life were not so easily interrupted. Near the close of July or the beginning of August, the Doctor again returned, and immediately entered upon the active duties of his profession. In all human probability, this ill advised course was the cause of the final catastrophe. His strength not being completely restored, and his blood doubtless still laboring under the effects of the recent poisoning, he was but illy calculated to endure the hardships and constant annoyances of an extensive practice. About the 16th or 17th of August, he commenced complaining of severe headache, nausea, and rigidity of the muscles of the neck. These symptoms were disregarded, and he continued to attend to his practice until the 19th, when labor being no longer possible, he took to his bed. Monday evening, 20th, he was removed to his brother's house. At this time, he was

suffering from severe pain in the temporal region, constant nausea, and occasional vomiting. His complaint was regarded as an attack of cerebro-spinal meningitis—a diagnosis which his long experience of the disease led him promptly to confirm. No serious danger was, however, felt, for though his sufferings were great, many apparently much more severe cases are daily seen to recover. Tuesday morning, 21st, he was much freer from pain, but decidedly somnolent, and apprehensions were for the first time entertained of the approach of coma. The somnolence steadily deepened, and by night his attendants became seriously alarmed, and apprehensive of the worst. Steadily advancing coma justified their greatest fears, and Wednesday morning, August 22d, at 7½ o'clock, the Doctor was at rest.

A post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Bontecou and myself, which revealed the existence of a large clot of blood covering the whole anterior portion of the left cerebrum, and accounting for the sudden and unexpected result. The marks of inflammation were neither marked nor extensive, as indeed it could not be expected they would be, in view of the nature and duration of the attack, and the peculiar mode of termination. It is evident that an attack of cerebro-spinal inflammation of a character not sufficiently severe to ordinarily terminate fatally, was unexpectedly cut short by a fatal hemorrhage, due perhaps in a great degree to the impoverished condition of the blood, caused by the previous disease.

MASON F. COGSWELL, M. D.*

A DISCOURSE DELIVERED UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS FUNERAL IN THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BY WM. B. SPRAGUE, D. D.†

There is a solemn significance in being assembled to perform funeral rites in the house of God. In all ordinary

* See Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York for 1865, page 286.

† The appearance of this paper in the Transactions may require a few words of explanation. Dr. Sprague has been for thirty years the inti

cases where our friends die, those who have been associated with them in daily or frequent intercourse, repair to the dwelling which their removal is about to render desolate, and there join with the bereaved circle in invoking the gracious influence of the Sanctifier and the Comforter. But there are cases in which the sense of loss is so wide and deep, the number who desire to join in the last tribute so large, that ampler accommodations become necessary, and then what place so fitting as God's own temple, where his people are encouraged in all circumstances, to come and hold communion with him? This is our experience to-day. A cluster of bleeding hearts have already breathed forth their prayers to God from amidst the bosom of domestic retirement, and from the very spot which is hallowed by the most tender and grateful remembrances. And now this sanctuary has opened its doors to admit the multitude who were in relations, nearer or more remote to our departed friend, and who regard it a privilege to testify, by their presence here, their respect for his memory. It is only necessary to look over the assemblage which the occasion has convened to know that a man of mark has fallen among us.

I cannot dissemble the fact that in speaking here, in the presence of the unburied coffin of our friend, I feel embarrassed in saying all that my emotions would dictate or even that the occasion seems to me to demand. I cannot forget that I am speaking of one whose habits of thought and feeling were of the most quiet and unostentatious kind, and that no one would shrink more sensitively than he

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mate friend and pastor of Doctor Cogswell, and was well acquainted with the events of his life, and well fitted to appreciate his excellent qualities. The discourse delivered at his funeral, which is here printed, was in all respects satisfactory to the friends of Doctor Cogswell, and it occurred to me while preparing a biographical sketch of the Doctor for publication in the Transactions, that the purpose would be better obtained by introducing the discourse, just as it was delivered, than by anything I could produce. Those of the Doctor's friends to whom I submitted the suggestion, thought well of it, and it was accordingly adopted.

THOMAS HUN.

would have done from the idea of becoming the subject of funeral eulogy. I do not mean to eulogize him in the sense of highly colored extravagant representation, and yet it is due to the living; due to the friends in whose hearts his memory is most deeply embalmed; due to his brethren of the medical profession; due to the community in which he has spent his whole professional life; that there should be included in these funeral services some brief notices of his life, and some general estimate of his character.

Dr. Cogswell was eminently favored in having descended from the best stock of Puritan ancestry. His grandfather, the Rev. Dr. James Cogswell, was one of the prominent Congregational ministers of Connecticut, and died in 1807, after the lapse of sixty-three years from the time of his ordination. What the ruling passion of this venerable man was, may be inferred from the fact that, a little before his death when his memory had become a perfect blank in respect to all earthly things, and he did not recognize the faces of even his own family, at the mention of the name of Jesus, his features brightened up into an expression of life and love, and he exclaimed, "He is my Saviour." The father of our departed friend was Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell, who was graduated at Yale College in 1780; became an eminent physician and President of the Medical Society of Connecticut; and, after a life of great activity and honorable usefulness, died in 1830. His mother was a near relative of the illustrious Colonel Ledyard, who commanded Fort Griswold in Groton, opposite New London, in 1781, and was brutally assassinated by the British officer to whom he surrendered it; she was a lady of rare accomplishments, of great gentleness and kindness of spirit, and withal was a devout and earnest christian. In a home in which a parental influence of the purest and most healthful kind prevailed, and in society such as this favored parentage would be likely to secure, our friend passed his earliest years; and his recollections of many of the honored and

noble characters who used to frequent his father's house, remained vivid till the close of his life. He entered Yale College in 1825, and graduated in 1829, and shortly after his graduation commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Alexander Stevens, one of the most eminent medical practitioners in the city of New York. Here he continued until sometime in the year 1832, when he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in that city. For about a year he acted as Dr. Stevens' assistant; and, during the summer of '32, rendered memorable by the prevalence of the Asiatic cholera in this country, he was in constant attendance at the New York City Hospital. In 1833 he came to Albany and commenced practice; and here he has been faithfully and successfully discharging his duties, and growing in public respect and confidence ever since.

Dr. Cogswell, besides having had a large and most respectable medical practice, has occupied, at different periods, various important public posts of professional responsibility. He has been the physician of our own city hospital ever since its organization. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he was appointed Examining Surgeon at this post, an office of no small delicacy and difficulty, and he actually examined several thousands of volunteers in respect to their capabilities for military duty. He was appointed surgeon of the Post Hospital in 1862; and when in 1864, this became a United States General Hospital, he had the place of Assistant Surgeon of volunteers, and subsequently he received the appointment of surgeon, which was waiting for the ratification of the United States Senate at the time of his decease. After the battles of Williamsburg and West Point, in the summer of 1862, a call was made for volunteer surgeons to meet the exigency of the service. Dr. Cogswell, fired by a spirit of lofty patriotism, was among those who responded to the call. He directed his course first to Fortress Monroe, and then up the Pamunky river to the White House in Virginia. Gen-

eral McClellan, having then just advanced with his forces from the last mentioned point towards Richmond, had left the sick and disabled of his army behind him; and for the relief and accommodation of these a field hospital was provided, and Dr. Cogswell was very efficient in its establishment. Here, probably, from insufficient diet and impure water, in connection with his arduous labors and constant exposure, he contracted an insidious disease that was never afterwards fully dislodged from his system. For some time after his return he was actually confined by illness; and though he was soon able to attend to his accustomed professional duties, he has always felt that the vigor of his constitution had been materially impaired in consequence of his visit to Virginia. Since that time, however, the office that he has held, under the United States Government, has kept the energies of his mind and body in constant requisition; and notwithstanding his imperfect health, he has probably performed a greater amount of labor than during any previous period of equal length in his whole life. And the result of his labors is, I understand, a monument of both his skill and his fidelity. I have been assured upon good authority, that no hospital in the Department of the East, which includes the whole of New England, the State of New York, and part of New Jersey, has been conducted with so much order, neatness and general efficiency, as this of which Dr. Cogswell has had the charge. In addition to his other more public medical services, he was associated with one of his brethren in this city, in February, 1863, under the direction of the Sanitary Commission, to ascertain the general condition of the hospitals in the west. They went as far as St. Louis; and though no public report was ever made of the result of their mission, it is understood to have been highly successful. This year opened upon our friend with the promise of renewed health; and he remarked to some of his friends, in the interchange of salutations on New Year's day, that he really felt almost like a new man; and that he hoped that,

with the beginning of the year, he was casting off the physical burden by which he had been so long oppressed. On that day he made his last call at my own house, accompanied by his two sons, who were his pride and his joy; and I never saw him when he seemed more free and genial and cordial than in that interview. Before many days it went abroad that he was laboring under a local malady, first of a milder, then of a more aggravated character. Presently it became manifest that there was a general feeling of anxiety concerning him spreading through the community. We could scarcely pass his door without observing indications that one or more of his medical brethren were at his bedside; and when we entered his dwelling, we always found friends who had come, in their solicitude, to learn minutely concerning his condition. For several days we were alternately encouraged and disheartened, by what we heard, in respect to the prospect of his recovery, until on Saturday morning last, the dark signal at the door revealed to us the fact that our worst fears were realized.

The character of Dr. Cogswell undoubtedly took its hue, in no small degree, from the influences of high social and Christian culture amid which he was thrown in early life, though we must look still farther back to an eminently favored original constitution. The operations of his mind were rather calm and sure than brilliant and startling. He was diligent and patient in his investigations, and rarely failed of reaching the right conclusion. Of his moral qualities, that which perhaps took the precedence of every other, was his unyielding regard to right. Questions of expediency with him were easily merged in the higher question of duty. He was intolerant of anything that bore even the semblance of a violation of principle, and though he must adhere to his convictions at the expense of differing with his best friends, adhere to them he would and did. At the same time he was constituted with the most generous and tender sensibilities. He was genial,

confiding, sympathetic, and withal so sincere that no one ever asked the question whether any word or action of his could have any other meaning than that which was apparent. He was the very soul of honor—meanness in every form he loathed, and nothing like this roused his indignation and drew from him burning words. In all his intercourse he exhibited the most considerate regard to circumstances, and the most delicate sense of propriety—never needlessly wounding the feelings, even of the humblest person with whom he was brought in contact. Though it was manifest that his native element, and that in which he breathed most freely, was an elegant refinement, he could, with a graceful facility, accommodate himself to all classes, and that without the slightest compromise of his dignity or sincerity. He was modest and unostentatious in all his movements; and, while he accepted gratefully the tokens of public respect and confidence that came to him, he never revolted you by any expression of conscious superiority or self-exaltation.

Dr. Cogswell, to the great regret of his many Christian friends, never made a public profession of religion. It was by no means a subject to which he was indifferent, but he seemed to have inherited a constitutional diffidence in respect to it from his venerable father, who, though he lived to old age, and lived for many years in the daily exemplification of the Christian graces, had never sufficient confidence in his own Christian experience to feel justified in publicly avowing himself on the Lord's side. But there were circumstances connected with the history of our friend which proved conclusively that he had thoughts and feelings in respect to his higher interests, which were not indicated by the fact of his remaining out of the church. The first thing he did in becoming the head of a family was to build a domestic altar; and on that altar a daily sacrifice was offered until the last fatal disease disabled him for the service. At the bedside of the sick and the dying he has often acted in the double character of a physician for the

body and a physician for the soul; and when he has seen that there was no hope of recovery, he has earnestly directed his patient to the Saviour, or has spoken to him grateful and loving words of the glory into which he was passing. In a prayer which he offered in his family a short time since, he uttered some expression having reference to the love of Christ, and instantly his utterance was obstructed, so that for a few moments he was uuable to proceed; and when, afterwards, he was interrogated by a member of his family as to the cause of his hesitation, he said frankly that the emotions awakened by the view which he had of the love of Christ, quite overcame him. From the commencement of his last illness, he seems to have been impressed with the idea that it would prove to be his last, and in a conversation with his wife, whose happiness was dearer to him than his own, and before his mind had yet began to wander, he said, calling her by her name: "If I die, do not be distressed concerning me, for I die in Christ, and our dear children I hope will early be brought into the kingdom." In my own conversations with him, which occurred in the progress of his illness, he uniformly expressed a strong confidence in his Saviour, and a willingness to have the issue of his disease determined by Infinite Wisdom, though during a part of the time his mind was somewhat unstrung through the workings of his malady. From such facts as these I am sure that mourning friends may derive much comfort, even in the absence of what they could have so much desired—a public Christian profession

But I must say something of Dr. Cogswell as a physician, though I am aware that it becomes me to speak cautiously in the presence of so many of his professional brethren, who are of course far more competent to judge of his medical abilities and attainments than I am. I might indeed refer to the judgment that has been passed upon him since his death, by one of the most eminent physicians in the city of New York or in the United States, assigning

to him a place in the foremost rank of his profession; but I prefer rather to speak of those particular characteristics of which I have myself been a witness, in connection with his attendance as my family physician, during the last twenty-five years. I may say, then, that there was that in his air, and manner, and general bearing, that was pre-eminently suited to a sick chamber. Without saying anything to occasion needless alarm, there was a sympathetic gentleness in his approaches, that made his presence most welcome, and that predisposed the patient to confide in his prescriptions. He examined with great thoroughness the case for which he was to prescribe, and deliberately formed his judgment upon it, and the result generally showed that that judgment was right; but if the case was specially complicated and obscure, so as to baffle his discernment, he had no false pride to prevent him from acknowledging his ignorance or his doubts. If it was a severe malady with which he was called to contend, he was on the alert to detect every change and to meet it, if need be, with the promptest application. If the case had a fatal issue, his heart was in evident sympathy with the heart of his patient, until the latter had done beating, and then it was in sympathy with the bleeding hearts of the bereaved family, and whatever he could do to soothe or to console he did with the utmost alacrity. I must not omit to say that while his practice was largely among the more cultivated and wealthy classes, he never turned a deaf ear to the calls of the poor, and he reckoned it no hardship to attend upon them, ministering to their comfort in every way that he could, when he was certain of receiving no pecuniary compensation. I may safely say that, throughout the whole field of his practice, he was recognized in every family as a dear personal friend; and I doubt not that large numbers to whom he has been thus related, if they should follow the dictates of their feelings, would put on badges of mourning, and go and shed bitter tears upon his grave.

And now, having thus glanced at the life and character of this honored and beloved physician and friend, what remains but that we open our minds and our hearts to whatever is monitory, whatever is comforting, in connection with this sad bereavement. Here are various classes represented, to each of which the voice of God speaks through the solemnities of the hour, as truly as it speaks to Moses from amidst the glories of the Mount. First of all, here are those who mourn the death of an endeared relative, while the greater number whose hearts are most deeply smitten, have staid behind to mingle their prayers and their tears in the desolate dwelling. To each one of this bereaved circle—to the widow bowed under a burden of grief which human language is inadequate to represent —to the dear children bereft of their father when his influence seemed the most needful to the formation of their character—to the sisters who have come from their several homes to proffer their sympathies and mingle their sorrows where the joyous fraternal welcome used to greet them, and one of whom was yet weeping beside the coffin of a beloved child when this second barbed arrow struck her heart—to all who mourn as relatives on this occasion, God is addressing a solemn charge that they should acknowledge his providence in the event, not only reverently and trustingly, but gratefully, for surely he has qualified the bitterness of their cup with many softening ingredients. Here is a large representation of his brethren of the medical profession, who have had the best opportunity of appreciating his admirable qualities, and with many of whom he has been more or less intimately associated in his professional engagements. Let them not be satisfied with paying any tribute to his memory short of that which consists in making a wise improvement of his death. Let them remember that they are themselves rapidly advancing towards a point where they must come in conflict with an agency that will baffle the highest skill of their own profession; and that then the only question that they will regard as of

any moment is, whether or not they have followed the prescriptions of the Great Physician. Here are scores, and I believe hundreds, who have become diseased or maimed in their country's perilous service, and who have been sent hither to share the daily medical attentions of our departed friend. He mingled with them as a father or a brother, and their presence here to-day, notwithstanding their many infirmities, is the strongest testimony they could render to the careful and affectionate fidelity that has characterized his intercourse with them. Let these defenders of their country remain as true as ever to their country's interests—let them, from amidst the confinements of the hospital, breathe out their prayers that the great work of our national deliverance may be speedily accomplished—let the memory of their departed physician, whose movements among them have been marked by such unwonted interest and tenderness, be embalmed in their hearts, no matter how deeply; but let them not forget that until they have enlisted as soldiers under the banner of the Cross—until they have placed themselves under the care of the great Healer of men's moral diseases—their own highest personal interests remain in fearful jeopardy. Here are many to whom the friend whom we mourn has ministered, night and day, in acts of professional skill, and tenderness, and efficiency, during a long course of years. Here are husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, who have seen him at each other's bedsides, closely watching and meeting every symptom, and taking on a grateful and almost jubilant look, when some dangerous crisis was favorably passed—let all these bless God that they have been privileged to share his services so long, and let them be diligent in their preparation for that world where the inhabitants shall no longer say, "I am sick." Here are those, finally, who have been fellow worshipers with him, some of them for more than a quarter of a century. He accounted it a high privilege to be here, and nothing but occasional attacks of disease to which he was subject, or

urgent professional engagements, kept him away. It is less than a month since I saw him, sitting yonder in his accustomed seat, with nothing to indicate that death's arrow was pointed at him and was even then upon the string. But a remark which dropped from him, on his way home, in respect to what he had been hearing, revealed what is now believed to have been at least a momentary presentiment that the time of his departure was at hand. Let not the removal of a member of this congregation, so highly esteemed and beloved, be lost upon any of us. Let us supplicate the influences of God's gracious spirit to give effect to the dispensation in rendering it a ministration of mercy to us all. Let this coffin, the presence of which spreads such gloom through the place, be regarded as God's accredited message come to bid us to prepare to die. May each of us, when the decisive hour comes, be able to say from the heart, what our dear friend said, when his voice was faltering in death—"Christ, Christ is my only hope."

IRA M. DE LAMATER, M. D.

BY LEVI MOORE, M. D.

The subject of our sketch, Ira M. De Lamater, M. D., was born at Duanesburgh, Schenectady county, September 28th, 1819. His father, Peter De Lamater, M. D., was for many years an active practitioner in that county. He was a man of culture, assumed a prominent place among the physicians with whom he was associated, and practiced his profession with much skill and success.

He never made any charge for fees, received a large share of the compensation due for his services in barter, on a very indefinite scale of value, and, although he passed a long life in active practice, amassed but little property.

He raised a large family, two of whom became physicians—the subject of this memoir, and Stephen G. De

Lamater, now a highly successful and skillful practitioner at Duanesburgh, Schenectady county.

The early life of Dr. De Lamater was spent at the country home of his father; the summers on the farm, the winters at the district school. Several years of his early manhood were spent in teaching, in which position he won a desirable position, and secured, in a marked degree, the confidence of his patrons. He read medicine with his brother, Stephen G. De Lamater, M. D.; attended two courses of lectures at the Albany Medical College, and received his degree at the close of the session of 1849–50. Soon afterwards he entered upon the practice of his profession, in this city, and speedily secured a large practice. He was charitable to the poor, bestowing much time and labor for their welfare. He rendered a large amount of gratuitous service to the indigent, and in many households his memory will be long revered.

He was a genial, pleasant companion, an intelligent physician, and a good citizen. A few years before his death, he became a member of the First Congregational Church of Albany, then under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Dr. Ray Palmer. He was punctual in his attendance at church and upon the ordinances of religion.

He became a member of the Albany County Medical Society in 1851, and was ever after zealous and active in promoting its interests.

In the summer of 1864, he accepted an appointment as physician to the Government Hospital, then located at Albany, and entered at once upon the duties of the position. While zealously attending to it, in connection with a large private practice, he was stricken with typhoid fever, which, after a brief illness, terminated in death, September, 1864.

Dr. De Lamater was twice married; had several children, three of whom—two sons and a daughter—survive him.

SAMUEL DICKSON, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 333.

HIRAM A. EDMONDS, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 39.

ALEXANDER G. FONDA, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 209, and Volume II, page 321.

ALDEN MARCH, M. D., L.L. D.*

Dr. Alden March was born in Sutton, Worcester county, Mass., in 1795. His early life was passed on a farm, and the rudiments of his education acquired in public schools, in which, for a short time, he was a teacher.

He studied medicine with an elder brother, who was surgeon in the U. S. Army, and attended medical lectures in Boston. He graduated at the Brown University, Providence, R. I., which, at that time, had a department of medicine. Williams' College conferred the degree of L.L. D. on Dr. March; and he was honorary member of most of the leading Societies of this country.

While a student of medicine, he was distinguished for his zeal and industry in the study of anatomy; and this laid a firm foundation for his future surgical renown. In the pursuit of his studies, no difficulty seemed to be too great; no obstacle too formidable for him to overcome. And the same indomitable will, perseverance and enthusiasm have characterized his whole professional life. He came to Albany in 1820, and immediately commenced the

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* From the *Albany Evening Journal*, June 17th, 1869.

practice of his profession, which he pursued with untiring devotion and success until his death.

His often repeated wish, that he might "die with his armor on," has been amply fulfilled; for, until within the last few weeks, he has been most actively engaged in the laborious duties of his profession. Immediately previous to his sickness, he made the journey to New Orleans, to attend a meeting of the National Medical Association, of which he had been an honored member, and President. On his return, he was in usual health, engaged actively in surgical practice, and only found time occasionally to look after the affairs of his farm, a few miles out of town.

He was passionately fond of agricultural pursuits, and in this way exposed himself to cold which kindled into activity a chronic disease, from which he had long and uncomplainingly suffered. He was attended by his beloved colleagues and friends, Drs. James McNaughton, James P. Boyd and his brother-in-law, Dr. James H. Armsby, and during his last illness was visited by most of the medical gentlemen of the city.

His death, in the full vigor of mental and physical activity and usefulness, will leave a void in our city and in the profession, that will be most deeply felt and deplored. Dr. March was one of the most remarkable and gifted men of his time. No medical man in this country was more widely known or more highly respected and esteemed. It was the common remark and testimony of medical men, that Dr. March was the highest and best surgical authority in this country. Among the prominent medical men of Europe, whose acquaintance he had made during his frequent visits abroad, he was everywhere received with distinguished notice and honor. No improvement in his profession escaped his attention and investigation. His bold and independent habits of thought and action, were always conspicuous, and he originated many new and important improvements in surgical science. As a bold, dexterous skillful operator, Dr. March had no superior in this or any

country. This is the universal testimony of the profession, and especially of those who have enjoyed the most extensive opportunities of foreign travel and observation. Few persons ever combined so many of the elements of a great and successful surgeon.

He had a frame of wonderful power and endurance; a mind of electric quickness and ceaseless activity, with skill in discrimination, and tact and dexterity in execution, which carried him successfully through the most difficult and trying ordeal of surgical practice. He was a most thorough student of anatomy, having taught this branch for ten years before he occupied the chair of surgery in our Medical College.

Thus armed with accurate knowledge and skill, he was never dismayed by the magnitude of danger of a surgical operation, upon which, perhaps, the safety of life of his patient depended. Having prepared himself for every emergency, he would commence an operation with calmness and self-possession, which inspired hope and confidence in his patients, and excited admiration and astonishment among his assistants and associates. He never seemed to consider that his own reputation was at stake when the most hazardous operation gave but a slight hope of saving the life of a patient.

At all hours of the day or night his best services were cheerfully and promptly rendered, without partiality to the poor and rich alike, and while he required just compensation from one class, he rendered as faithful and willing service to the other. But the great beauty of his character was in his domestic and Christian life. No man was more loving, or more beloved in his house, than Dr. March, and no one in the church, of which he was a main pillar, was looked up to with more respect and confidence. His whole life was characterized by simplicity, honesty and integrity, as evinced in the faithful fulfillment of every trust confided to his care during a long life of public service and honor.

He was the father and one of the founders of the Albany Medical College, and its offspring, the Albany City Hospital. More than forty years ago he delivered a public lecture "On the Propriety of Establishing a Medical College and Hospital in the City of Albany." Among the last acts of his eventful life, he donated to these institutions each $1,000. To the College he bequeathed his pathological museum, the most extensive and valuable in this country, with $1,000, the interest of which is to be perpetually employed for its care and preservation. To the Hospital he had given the same amount, the interest to be expended for the purchase of surgical instruments for use in the Hospital.

The name of Dr. March has long been a household word throughout the land. His students are numbered by thousands, in whose hearts his memory is embalmed forever. Every one has some kind and cherished remembrance of his honored and beloved preceptor. Wherever a student or graduate of the Albany Medical College is found (and they are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land), it is claimed as his highest honor and merit that "he has been a student of Dr. March, of Albany."

When the deceased came to this city it had a population of less than fifteen thousand. With the enterprise and activity which have characterized his whole life, he at once conceived the idea of establishing a Medical College and Hospital here. At that time there was but one hospital and but two colleges in the State. He began a course of lectures on anatomy in 1821, in the attic of an old building in Montgomery street, above Columbia. His first class of students numbered fourteen, most of whom were young physicians. His material for demonstration was brought overland from Boston, at great expense and personal risk. These lectures were continued, and petitions were circulated among our citizens, year after year, for a charter for a Medical College.

At length, with the aid of his associate, Dr. Armsby,

and the support of prominent citizens of Albany, a charter was obtained from the Legislature, and our Medical College was organized and commenced operations January 3d, 1839. Dr. March has been at the head of this institution thirty years, after having labored eighteen years to prepare the way for its establishment. This institution, the fruit of his labors and enterprise, the church which he has contributed so largely to build up, and the hospital with which he has been so prominently identified since its foundation, and the various other public enterprises with which he has been connected, will associate his name with the history and progress of Albany as enduringly as that of any other citizen.

The whole city and country will mourn the death of Dr. March, and pay fitting tribute to his memory.

He died on Thursday, June 17th, 1869.

DAVID MARTIN, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 350.

JAMES E. POMFRET, M. D.*

Dr. Pomfret was born in Preston, Lancastershire, England, March 26th, 1826. He was educated in an Episcopal school. His father died when he was about fourteen years of age. About two years later he came to America with his mother and several brothers and sisters, and first settled in Lowell, Mass.

He began to preach at an early age, probably about twenty, and at nearly the same time to study medicine, perhaps more from a love of knowledge than any expectation of ever practicing the profession, and only devoted

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* See Proceedings of University Convocation, 1869, page 110.

what time he could snatch from his other duties as preacher and editor, for he was for some years editor of one or more papers.

He came to Haverhill in November, 1853, as pastor of the Summer Street church. In December, 1854, he was dismissed at his own request, and immediately was settled as pastor of the Universalist Society in the West Parish, where he remained about three years.

During all these years, he steadily pursued the study of medicine as opportunity offered, and soon after his settlement at the West Parish, he entered his name as a student with the writer of this article,* with a settled determination to pursue it systematically, and to adopt the profession as his life-work. It was soon evident that he had not mistaken his vocation; that he was not seeking medical honors merely as a means to obtain a livelihood, but that he had begun a work in which his soul delighted, and in which he made such progress as few men, with no church or family to care for, could equal.

In the autumn of 1857, he attended the course of lectures at the Albany Medical College, from which institution he graduated about the first of the year 1859. He removed his family to Albany in 1858, where they have since resided. He commenced the practice of medicine in Albany immediately after graduating. Although modest and somewhat retiring in demeanor, he had not been overlooked by his teachers. They saw that he was a scholar of no ordinary ability. Soon after he commenced practice, he was appointed a professor of chemistry in the Albany Female Academy, through the recommendation of some of his teachers who were trustees of that institution. This position he filled, except when absent in the army, until his death.

Within a few months of his graduation, he received a proposition from Dr. J. H. Armsby, professor of anatomy

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*F. J. Stevens, M. D., of Haverhill, Mass.

in the Albany Medical College, to enter into partnership with him in business, which was accepted. He remained with Dr. Armsby until August, 1862, when he entered the army as surgeon of the 113th Regiment N. Y. V. He was afterwards appointed surgeon-in-chief of the first division, second army corps.

His services in the army, although laborious, were faithfully rendered, so that when he returned to private practice, at the close of the war, he was universally beloved by officers and privates, who had shared with him the dangers and sufferings of the Wilderness and the march to Richmond. In March, 1865, he received the appointment of surgeon-general on Gov. Fenton's staff, as successor of the lamented Dr. Sylvester D. Willard. He enjoyed the confidence and friendship of the Governor till his death, and among those who deplore his loss, few more sincere mourners may be found than the late Governor, now United States Senator from the Empire State. During the same year (1865), he was appointed surgeon of the Albany Hospital, and in 1867, was elected professor of physiology in the Albany Medical College, both of which places he filled till his death, which occurred February 22d, 1869, of softening of the brain.

"Dr. Pomfret was possessed of rare intellectual endowments and professional acquirements. dignified and reserved," but mild in manner, a scholar and a gentleman, and one who ardently loved his chosen profession, his opinion of which is given in the following simple yet eloquent language, in an address to his class at the opening of the session of 1868:

"What better opportunity can be had for personal culture than our profession affords? Looked at from its scientific side, the ample room afforded for accuracy of observation, for subtilty of analysis, for comprehension of law, for delicacy of manipulation, insures to the earnest student the fullest culture of every power of the mind. Looked at on the side of art, its influence on the individual

is equally potent. Brought constantly face to face with the gravest responsibility, called to meet the most sudden emergencies, there is inevitably produced in him a thorough self-possession, a quickness of apprehension and a fertility of resource compatible only with the most perfect culture." Such was the standard which he erected and called upon his associates and pupils to follow.

The funeral service was conducted by the rector of St. Paul's church, and at the grave the usual masonic service was conducted by Temple Lodge, of Albany, at the request of Merrimac Lodge of this town (Haverhill), of which the deceased was a member. His regiment attended in a body, and the medical society, the students of the academy, the masonic fraternity, together with all classes of citizens, joined their tears and sympathies with the bereaved family, thus rendering their last sad tribute of respect to the tender husband, the kind father, the beloved teacher, the noble man, the good physician.

What was it that filled the large church and streets of of the city with mourners for one who only ten years before had arrived as an unknown stranger? We can find no better or more eloquent answer than that from his own lips, respecting one of his teachers: "It was not his learning, for the unlearned mourned him; it was not his profession, for all professions and pursuits did honor to his memory; it was not his church, for all churches had members at his grave; it was no civil pageant, no social brotherhood, for he was in private life, and living in one grand pursuit; it was the purity, the nobleness, the beauty of his character; character, which, when all possessions are dross, leaves its fragrant perfume in our dust."

WM. C. RODGERS, M. D.

BY J. W. MOORE, M. D.

Dr. Wm. C. Rodgers was born in Utica, October 3d, 1830. He moved to Schenectady while quite young, and

entered Union College. Leaving College, at the end of the Sophomore year, he spent a number of months teaching in Scotia. He began the study of medicine with Dr. Vedder, of Schenectady, and, after six months, came to Troy, in September, 1849, to take charge of St. Paul's Parish School, continuing his medical studies under the direction of Dr. Brinsmade. In the fall of 1852, he commenced attending lectures at Albany, and was assistant physician to the Almshouse, while an undergraduate. After graduating, in June, 1854, he settled on Green Island, and began the practice of medicine in July of that year. From that time to the day of his death, on the morning of the 7th of April, 1860, he was untiring in the prosecution of his studies and the practical duties of his profession.

His natural inclination, and the pressure of limited means, led him early to write for various literary publications, and for the daily press, as a means of acquiring books, upon professional and kindred subjects. These were highly valued—perhaps the more from the difficulty of their acquisition—closely studied, and their contents systematically stored in a remarkably retentive memory, until he became a strong example of the truth of the aphorism, "Beware of the man of one book."

Being chosen health officer of the Island, he was led to the study of disease in the broader relations of its classification, causes, and sanitary prevention; and possessing a philosophical mind of the highest order, with a ready pen, great power of expression, and a love for statistical investigations and deductions, he was gradually laying up the materials for future contributions to our medical journals. He had already opened a correspondence with many leading members of the profession in other States, and written articles for the journals, upon subjects of general interest and practical importance.

He was a good classical scholar—was well read in the natural sciences, and paid great attention to phrenology—was fond of wit and humor, and had a keen sense of the

same—laughed heartily when these were brought out, and made others enjoy them. He had a high sense of honor, and an innate detestation of everything which savored of hypocrisy.

Dr. Rodgers' disease was acute pneumonia, which he attributed to violent exertion, in exercising with heavy dumb-bells, at a gymnasium. He was in perfect health until the moment that he was conscious of a severe pain in the right side of the chest, while trying to raise the bell, causing such a shock as to produce a feeling of faintness. The pain continued for two or three days; but as the inflammation was confined to the right lung, it was hoped that he would recover, until about thirty-six hours before his death, when evidences of the occurrence of the disease having invaded the other side of the chest became manifest; it extended rapidly, and he expired just eight days after the first attack.

THOMAS SMITH, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume II, page 82.

HOWARD TOWNSEND, M. D.

BY THOMAS HUN, M. D.*

Doctor Howard Townsend was born in Albany, November 22, 1823.

His father was an eminent merchant, well known throughout the State. His mother was a woman of remarkable excellence and discretion, to whose early influence in the formation of his character, he often referred with gratitude.

He attended school at the Albany Academy and at

*See Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York or 1867, page 468.

Poughkeepsie, and was graduated at Union College in 1843.

He then commenced the study of medicine, for which he had a marked predilection. He pursued his medical studies under the direction of the author of this notice. He attended lectures at the Albany Medical College in 1844–5 and 1845–6, and in 1846–7 at the University of Pennsylvania, from which school he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1847.

After his graduation he went to Paris, where he spent some time in prosecuting his medical studies, and after visiting Italy and other countries of Europe, he returned to Albany in 1849, and commenced the practice of medicine.

He soon after married Miss Justina Van Rensselaer, daughter of General Stephen Van Rensselaer, who, with three children, survives him.

In 1852, he was appointed Professor of Midwifery in the Albany Medical College. After delivering one course of lectures on this branch, he was transferred to the chair of Materia Medica. In 1858, the branch of Institutes of Medicine was added to the Materia Medica, and he continued to teach both those branches till his death in January, 1867.

His lectures were prepared with great care, and were highly appreciated by the students. He was earnest in his manner, and clear in the exposition of the subject. He was remarkable for patient investigation, and in the latter years of his life his assistance was often sought for by his medical friends, to look upon cases requiring erudition and careful research.

In addition to his regular lectures at the college, he gave at the Albany Hospital, classical lectures which excited great interest. The patience with which he taught accurate methods of investigating disease, and establishing precise diagnosis, gave great value to these lectures.

The influence which Dr. Townsend exerted over the

character of his pupils ought not to be passed without remark. It was a striking characteristic of his teaching, to enforce upon the students the importance of just and generous conduct in their relations with each other, and with the patients, and to give them a high notion of the dignity of their profession.

A few months before his death, he was appointed member of the Board of Public Instruction, and was one of the most zealous and industrious members of the Board.

In December, 1866, after much fatigue in the performance of his duties at the college, he complained of langour and exhaustion, but not in a way to cause disquietude to his friends, till he was suddenly attacked with convulsions. These passed off, leaving him weak and dispirited, in which condition he remained about three weeks. He then began to exhibit unmistakeable signs of serious cerebral disorder, and soon fell into a state of stupor, which continued till he died, in January, just one month from the date of the attack of convulsions. A post-mortem examination revealed the existence of two abscesses communicating with each other in the anterior lobe of the left cerebral hemisphere.

A mere sketch of the principal events of his life and of the public positions he was called to occupy, gives but an inadequate idea of the character of Doctor Townsend. To understand what sort of man he was, one must have seen him in the performance of each day's duty in his family, in the society of his friends, and in his relations with the world. Of an amiable and generous temper, he was always pleased to render service to his friends, at cost of personal sacrifice. He had a high sense of honor and fidelity, and was scrupulously just in his dealings. It is rare to find one who carries so steadily and continuously a sense of moral obligation into small as well as into great affairs.

JOHN H. TROTTER, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 336.

JOHN VAN BUREN, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 335.

JAMES WADE, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 219.

ALFRED WANDS, M. D.

BY WM. J. WARREN, M. D.

The subject of this brief sketch, Dr. Alfred Wands, was the son of James B. Wands, of Bethlehem, Albany county, N. Y. He was of Scotch parentage, and was born in Bethlehem in 1822. He commenced the study of medicine in 1842, with the late Dr. L. G. Warren, at that time residing in Bethlehem, with whom he studied two years. The last year he studied with the late Dr. David Martin, of this city. He graduated at the Albany Medical College in 1844. During that year he married the only daughter of Dr. L. G. and Margaret Warren. He commenced the practice of medicine at Guilderland Center, in 1846, and remained there until 1851, when he removed to Cohoes. He there soon gained a lucrative practice. He was strongly attached to his profession, and for many years exerted a leading influence among its members of that place. In professional life, he was characterized by industry and attention to his patients. His business became very large, and absorbed almost every other consideration. He was a man of energy, of strong will, and positive opinion. Dr. Wands was a member of the First Presbyterian

Church of Cohoes. In January, 1870, by overtaxing his physical strength in business, he was confined to his house. His family, becoming alarmed, called Drs. James McNaughton, James P. Boyd and Van Derveer, of this city. He recovered somewhat, and thinking a change of air and relaxation of business might restore him to health, he concluded to visit his father and friends at his native place. He came as far as this city, intending to spend a week or two with his brother-in-law, Dr. W. J. Warren. While there, he met with a relapse, and was unable to proceed to the country. All the aid that science could bring was resorted to, but with no avail. After a painful illness of nine weeks, he peacefully passed away. He was a devout Christian, an affectionate husband, kind father, and an honest man. An incident occurred the day after his death, in the city of Cohoes, which will not be out of place to mention in this sketch, as it shows the estimation in which he was held by the poor he attended. An old lady remarked, the day after his death: "I am so sorry Dr. Wands is dead; he was always kind to me. Yes," she continued, "he was always kind to the poor." As the Rev. Wm. Johnson remarked, after relating the incident, at his funeral, "I want no higher eulogy pronounced over my coffin, than that I was kind to the poor."

He was Noble Grand of Spartan Lodge, I. O. of O. F., in the city of Cohoes, and was buried by said Lodge. He died June 24th, 1870, at the age of forty-eight.

LEONARD G. WARREN, M. D.

BY ALFRED E. WARREN.

The subject of this brief sketch was the son of William Warren, of Bethlehem, Albany county, N. Y. Dr. L. G. Warren was born, in Bethlehem, April 17th, 1803. He commenced the study of medicine with Henry

Barnard Hallenbake, of the same town, and continued with him until his death, in April, 1825. He then completed his studies with the late Dr. Wm. Bay, of Albany. He graduated at Castleton, Vt., in 1826. He settled in Bethlehem, five miles south of Albany, and remained there until the spring of 1854, when he removed to this city. When in Bethlehem he had an extensive practice, and, in the meantime, visited many families in the city. After moving to Albany, he still visited many of his old families in the country. Dr. Warren was elected a member of the Albany County Medical Society in 1831. He held the office of Vice-President of the same Society in 1861–2. Dr. Warren was of Scottish parentage, in virtue of which he became a member of the St. Andrew's Society of this city, and at the time of his death was physician to that venerable Society. He was a member of the First Congregational Church, a constant and devout communicant. For a few weeks previous to his death, he had been suffering with a severe cold, and, for a change of air and relaxation from professional duties, he left home for Newburgh, with his friend, the Hon. James H. Graham, a member of the Legislature.

On Sunday, the fifteenth of April, he had a severe chill, which was followed with congestive pneumonia. He remained very ill until the nineteenth. From that time until Sunday morning he seemed better, but was very weak, and felt doubtful of his recovery. At 9 A. M. of that day, he complained of great distress and sickness at the stomach, soon followed by spasms, which continued with more or less severity until 3 P. M., when they ceased, and he continued in an unconscious state until 5 P. M., when death closed the melancholy scene. He died the twenty-second day of April, 1866, at the age of sixty-three.

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD, M. D.

BY DR. FRANKLIN B. HOUGH.*

Dr. Sylvester David Willard was born in Wilton, Connecticut, on the 19th of June, 1825, and was the son of Dr. David Willard, a worthy physician, who spent the greater part of a long and useful life in the practice of his profession in that town. He was a descendant of Major Simon Willard, a pioneer from England to Massachutetts in 1634, and his ancestors, for three generations, had resided in Saybrook. The subject of this notice has, with filial care, preserved in the columns of a professional journal a brief memorial of his father, Dr. David Willard.† It is interesting, in this connection, by proving that the influences and example which gave the first direction to his own character were of the most salutary kind, and that, for earnest and quiet devotion to the arduous duties of his profession, fondness for the literature which illustrated his favorite science, and manners ever genial and attractive, he presented a worthy model for his emulation.

The maiden name of Dr. S. D. Willard's mother was Abby Gregory, a native of Wilton, and a niece of Lieut. Matthew Gregory, formerly owner of "Congress Hall," a first class hotel in Albany.‡ Dr. Willard always spoke of his mother with great tenderness and affection, and in a letter to his brother, written on the third of January, 1864, he makes the following allusion to her memory:

"It is seven years this day since the spirit of our loving mother entered its eternal rest. It was a day of sorrow to us. It is now a day when we remember the sorrow no more, but rejoice for her, that she is one of the innumerable

* See Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York for 1866, page 329.

† *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Philadelphia, March 10, 1860. Dr. David Willard died on the 9th of February, 1860, aged 71 years.

‡ The last literary labor of Dr. Willard was the preparation of a biographical sketch of Lieut. Gregory, which was left finished upon his table but a few hours before the attack of illness which terminated his life, and which Mr. Munsell has published in "Recollections of Albany."

throng that swell the praises of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the heavenly temple. It was a sad New Year's to us then; but one more joyous, when we hope to meet her and our dear father, has come seven years nearer."

The feeling of kind regard which Dr. Willard entertained towards the friends of his youth, and the historical associations of his native town, led him to suggest in the last letter which he ever wrote, and which was found addressed to his brother and ready for the post office, on his table, a plan for gathering and printing an obituary list of the town for the last forty-five years. The motive which suggested to him this enterprise, which would have cost him much time and money, was to show his respect and affection for the place of his birth, as a memorial tribute to his former townsmen, in whose welfare and improvement he ever felt a lively interest.

Dr. Willard acquired his academic education at an academy in his native town. His earlier preference was for the Christian ministry, but as the period arrived when a decision was to be made, events determined his choice for the medical profession, which he began under his father's direction. For about a year and half before reaching the age of twenty, he was engaged in teaching a school, in the meantime giving attention to his medical studies.

In the fall of 1845 he went to Albany, upon an invitation of his relative, Dr. Joel A. Wing, and having finished his preparatory studies, graduated at the Albany Medical College, in 1848, after attending three courses of lectures at that institution.* The intervening summers had been spent in practice with his father at Wilton.

In June, 1848, having declined an appointment in the Bellevue Hospital at New York, he accepted an invitation from Dr. Wing to enter his office permanently, with

* In 1859 or 1860, Dr. Willard received an honorary degree of M. D., from Geneva Medical College, and two or three years later he received the compliment of honorary membership from the Medical Society of Connecticut.

the view of a partnership, but the death of his friend in 1852, prevented the completion of this intention. Dr. Willard, therefore, commenced practice without the advantages which might have been enjoyed from an association with one who had an established business, but with a firm reliance upon his own ability to earn both reputation and patronage by the faithful and thorough discharge of his duty.

His career at first, and for some years, was such as might have been expected from a young and inexperienced man in competition with physicians of long established reputation and great professional merit. He had before him the task of building up for himself a business and a name, unaided by family associations or influential patrons, and with no capital but his own talents and such interests as he might bring to his aid through his own energies. Yet every day added something to this end, and the uniform care and study he bestowed upon his cases, and consequent success that rewarded his labors, gradually extended his professional reputation till the close of his career.

The late Dr. T. Romeyn Beck was among the first to notice the merits of Dr. Willard, and he expressed his confidence in his ability by employing him as his physician in the sickness which terminated his own life. This mark of friendship, by one so justly eminent in science, was highly gratifying to the young physician, and tended to promote his welfare by bringing him into public notice. His relations with the profession in Albany were for the most part of the most agreeable kind, and his fondness for medical literature led him to correspond with a leading journal of medical science, by which his name became favorably known beyond the circle of his personal acquaintance.

At an early period of his professional career, he became a member of the Albany County Medical Society, and served successively as Secretary, Vice President and President. After attending as a delegate the prescribed term in the State Medical Society, he was elected a permanent

member in 1858. Having previously performed the duties of Secretary of the State Society, he was chosen its Secretary in 1857, and continued in this capacity until his death. The volumes published during his term of service bear honorable evidence of his industry and ability in the exercise of his trust. He was for the last two years of his life an examining surgeon for the Pension Office, under an appointment by the general government.

Dr. Willard possessed an active mind, and found great pleasure in antiquarian and historical pursuits. These tastes led him at leisure intervals, to institute industrious inquiries into the history of the County and State Medical Societies. His researches were more particularly directed to the collection of personal reminiscences of those who had founded and conducted them through the earlier period of their existence. These labors were eminently successful in recalling from oblivion many facts of great historical interest. These were embodied in an address delivered before the Medical Society of the County of Albany, at its semi-centennial anniversary meeting, held in November, 1856, in a volume embracing the proceedings of this Society, published by him in 1864, and in the several addresses and articles prepared by him, and published in the Transactions of the State Medical Society. A list of these publications, and of his professional writings, will be given at the end of this article.

As a biographer, Dr. Willard was industrious, discriminating and impartial, and had his life been extended to old age, his contributions to this department of historical literature would have been voluminous. As he left them they are of inestimable value. To illustrate his fondness for these researches, it may be recorded that some two years before his death, he introduced a resolution in the Albany Institute, a literary and scientific body, of which he was an active member, for the appointment of a committee to prepare biographical notices of its early members, and was, of course, appointed to act himself as such committee.

When it is remembered that this Society, under its various forms since 1791, has numbered many hundred members, many of whom were persons of prominence in various sections of the State, it will be understood that the task thus assumed was one of great magnitude. The papers read by him, from time to time, show that he had the subject under notice, and that he had done something towards its fulfillment. But these studies were not allowed to interfere with the daily labors of his profession, and he pursued them only as a recreation, at leisure moments of time.

Dr. Willard was an ardent patriot, and took a deep interest in the success of Government in its efforts to suppress the great rebellion. His attention was more particularly turned in the direction of the hospitals, the relief of wounded soldiers, and the adoption of conservative measures in the treatment of wounds. Early in the Peninsula campaign of 1862, he was appointed a volunteer surgeon, to look after the interests of New York soldiers in the field, and under this appointment he visited Fortress Monroe and the army at the White House, and devoted three weeks to arduous labors in the hospitals, filled with wounded from the recent skirmishes before Yorktown, and the battle of West Point. His narrative of this tour of service was embodied in a memoir read before the State Medical Society at its next session, and published in its Transactions under the title of "Conservative Surgery," with a list of the medical and surgical force of New York in the war of the rebellion.

In conjunction with Dr. John Swinburne, the present Health Officer of the Port of New York, he brought before the Legislature early in 1862, an application for pecuniary aid, for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers from New York. Although this met with unexpected opposition, attributed by him to the then newly appointed Surgeon General of the United States, and to parties interested in the Sanitary Commission, it was finally successful, and the

sum of $200,000 was appropriated by the Legislature for this use.

During the Legislative session of 1864, a proposition was introduced for the appointment of a commission for inquiring into the condition of the insane in the poor-houses throughout the State. The subject was referred to the Committee on Public Health, of which Dr. Richardson, of Essex, was chairman.* This committee recommended a measure tending to the same practical result, but at mu h less expense, and reported a bill which became a law on the 30th of April, 1864.

It instructed the Secretary of the State Medical Society to make an investigation into the condition of the insane in the various poor houses, alms houses, insane asylums, and other institutions where the insane poor were kept, not including such as were now required to report to the State Legislature. This information was to be obtained through a series of questions, addressed to competent physicians duly appointed for the purpose, and properly certified before a magistrate. The Secretary of the State Medical Society was directed to condense the information thus obtained, and report the same at the next meeting of the Legislature.

Dr. Willard undertook the discharge of the duty thus assigned him, with characteristic energy, and prepared circulars and forms, to the officers charged with duties under the act, for obtaining with the greatest minuteness of detail, the facts desired relative to the condition of our insane poor. The inquiries were to be made by local physicians, under the appointment of the county judges; and he took especial care to urge the selection of reliable and scientific

* Dr Willard, in his subsequent report, acknowledged that the investigation that followed, was instigated by Dr. Wm. H. Richardson, of Essex; Dr. C. M. Crandall, of Allegany; Dr. W. H. Barnes, of Columbia, and Dr. Julian T. Williams, of Chautauqua, Members of Assembly, and on the Committee of Public Health in 1864. They were all earnest in support of the measure. The chairman was especially active in preparing the passage of the law noticed in the text.

men, who would not hesitate to report the truth, however unpleasant or disreputable to the officers in charge of the county asylums. He made diligent efforts to obtain comparative statistics and full information upon the subject in hand, and carefully studied and arranged the results of his researches as they were obtained.

On the 13th of January, 1865, Dr. Willard transmitted to the Legislature the result of his labors.* Returns had been received from all the counties but four, and the conditions reported from each county were separately and concisely stated. The details of misery and wretchedness thus brought to light were placed prominently before the public by Dr. Willard in his report, and he sought every other opportunity which presented for making these conditions known, by means of communications to societies, in conversation, and through the press, with the view of securing a reform by the introduction of a humane and economical system for the care of these unfortunate subjects of public charity. He urged the necessity of erecting a large asylum, having reference to the comfort and, if possible, the improvement of their conditions, which he believed could be done at less expense than the present irregular and highly objectionable practice.

A change in the political aspect of the State administration, which took effect at the beginning of 1865, left a vacancy in the office of Surgeon General of the State of New York, and Dr. Willard became the successful candidate for the appointment, although strong efforts were made by the friends of other gentlemen, of high standing and great ability, to determine the choice of other parties. Dr. Willard's relations with the two preceding incumbents of this office had been of a very friendly character, and he had previously, with their approbation and the facilities they had furnished, prepared lists of our volunteer surgeons in the service of the United States, which were published in connection with their official reports.

* Assembly Document, 1865, No. 19—70 pages.

This office, which had formerly been quite nominal and merely honorary, suddenly became one of great importance upon the breaking out of the rebellion. The Surgeon General became responsible for the examination and appointment of the medical officers of volunteer regiments, and for their promotion as changes occurred from time to time in the service. He was entrusted with the supply of medical and hospital stores of such regiments as received their outfit from the State, and was expected to give attention to the wants of our soldiers returning sick or wounded from the field. These and other duties, involving great responsibility, had been performed by Drs. Vanderpoel and Quackenbush, the predecessors of Dr. Willard; and when the latter entered upon his duties, he found the system organized and in full operation, yet still involving important interests and demanding daily care. Conflicting claims for promotion were to be decided, new selections to be made and the supervision of the State medical agencies to be provided for. He entered upon these duties with his accustomed energy and intelligence, and for the brief space of life which remained, discharged them with acceptance to all concerned.

The report of Dr. Willard upon the condition and wants of the insane poor had, in the meantime, made a decided impression upon the Legislature. The Governor, in his message, called attention to the abuses that these inquiries had disclosed, and the subject was again referred to the Committee on Public Health, of which Dr. Richardson was again chairman.*

A bill was matured by these gentlemen and reported to the Assembly, in which house it passed the various forms of legislation without opposition. It contemplated the establishment of a second lunatic asylum at State expense, for the care of the insane poor, and in honor of the late Dr.

* This committee in 1865, consisted of Dr. Wm. H. Richardson, of Essex; Dr. H. P. Tolman, of Onondaga; Dr. C. M. Crandall of Allegany; E. P. Smith of Yates; F. H. Cooper, of Orange, and H. C. Boswell, of Kings.

T. Romeyn Beck, of Albany, who had, during a long and active life, given particular attention to the study of this form of disease, and to the improvement of methods for their care and treatment, it was proposed to name the new institution "The Beck Asylum for the Insane." In this form it stood on the files of the Senate, as we come to the closing passage in the life of Dr. Willard.

The Doctor had for some time been most laboriously engaged. The business incident to the annual meeting of the State Society in February; his duties as Surgeon General; his earnest and constant solicitude for the passage of his favorite bill in the Legislature, and the daily calls of his profession, had their influence on a constitution naturally frail and unable to respond to the demands of his energetic will. As he was about to leave his office on Sunday evening, March 26th, he felt a chill and returned home sick. His disease assumed the form of a typhoid fever, which resisted every remedy, and he died on Sunday evening following, April 2, 1865.

His death made a marked impression upon the public mind, and his prominent position in official life suggested appropriate honors to his memory. Resolutions were passed by both houses of the Legislature, expressing in fitting terms the respect and esteem with which he was held; and as a further mark of honor the bill then in the Senate was amended and became a law, with its title changed to "The Willard Asylum for the Insane."

His funeral was attended by all the officers of the State government, the Legislature, the Societies of which he had been a member, and a wide circle of mourning friends, at the Second Presbyterian Church, and his remains were interred in the Albany Rural Cemetery.

Dr. Willard was married at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, March 4, 1861, to Miss Susan Ellen Spence, daughter of the late Mirmion Spence, of that place. He leftt wo children, Margaret, born December 14, 1862, and Sylvester David, born March 2, 1865. He was a member of the Second

Presbyterian Church, of Albany, under the pastoral care of Rev. Dr. William B. Sprague, and his daily life was a beautiful illustration of a christian character.

LIST OF THE PUBLISHED WRITINGS OF DR. WILLARD.

Historical Address, delivered before the Medical Society of the County of Albany, in the State of New York, November 11, 1856, being its semi-centennial anniversary meeting. Printed by order of the Society. 8 vo., 28 pages.

Eulogy upon the Life and Character of Hiram Augustus Edmonds, M. D., Superintendent of the Lydius street Mission Sabbath School, delivered before the friends of the mission on Wednesday evening, April 29, 1857. Published by the teachers. Albany, 1857. 8 vo., pp.

Biographical Memoirs of Physicians of Albany County: An address delivered before the Medical Society of the County of Albany, at its semi-centennial meeting, June 9, 1857. Published by order of the Society. 8 vo., pp. 22.

Biographical Memoir of Thomas Spencer, M. D. Transactions, 1858. 12 pages.

Notice of an Epidemic Sore Throat (Diphtherite) as prevalent in Albany, N. Y. Medical and Surgical Reporter. Phila., Dec. 3, 1858. I, p. 157.

Annual Address before the Medical Society of the County of Albany, November 8, 1859. 18 pages.

Diphtherite: Its prevalence in Albany, N. Y. Transactions, 1859. 4 pages.

Biographical Notice of Joel Edwin Hawley, M. D. Transactions, 1860. 1 page.

Gunshot Wound within the cavity of the Thorax. Transactions, 1860. 4 pages. Read also before Albany Institute.

Biographical Notice of Dr. David Willard. Med. & Surg. Reporter. Phila., March 10, 1860. III, p. 513.

Memoir of Casper Van Wie Burton, M. D. Transactions, 1861. 5 pages.

Biographical Memoir of Casper Van Wie Burton, M. D., of Lansingburgh, 8 vo., pp. 18. May, 1861.

Biographical Memoir of Merrit H. Cash, M. D., of Orange county. Transactions, 1862. 5 pages.

Reports of Albany County Medical Society meetings. Med & Surg. Reporter. Phil., v. 206, 343, 458, 592. XII, 176.

Suicide v. Homicide. Med. & Surg. Reporter. Phila., Aug. 24, 1861. VI, p. 466.

Correspondence. Med. & Surg. Reporter. Phila., Dec. 1, 1861. XII. p. 305.

Conservative Surgery, with a list of the Medical and Surgical Force of New York, in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–2. Alphabetically arranged. Transactions, 1862. 39 pages.

Memoir of Barton White, M. D. Transactions, 1863. 2 pages.

Notice of William S. Norton, M. D. Transactions, 1863. 1 page.

Notice of Dr. Abijah G. Benedict, of Redhook. Transactions, 1864. 2 pages.

Report of the Committee to confer with his Excellency, the Governor, and the Legislature, relative to the additional care of sick and wounded soldiers from the State of New York in the United States service, etc. By Dr. John Swinburne and Dr. S. D. Willard. Transactions, 1864. 2 pages.

Regimental Surgeons of the State of New York in the War of the Rebellion. Alphabetically arranged. Transactions, 1863. 33 pages.

——The same extended. Transactions, 1864. 34 pages.

Annals of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, 1806-1851, with biographical sketches of deceased members. By Sylvester D. Willard, M. D. Albany, 1864. 8 vo., pp. iv, 368.

Report on the Condition of the Insane Poor in the county poor houses of New York. By Sylvester D. Willard, M. D. Assembly Doc., No. 19, 1865. 8 vo., pp. 70.

Semi-centennial Anniversary of the Medical Society of the State of New York: Proceedings at the Supper. This pamphlet of 8 pages contains the remarks made by Dr. Willard upon that occasion.

Dr. Willard also contributed articles to the daily papers upon many occasions. His letters from the army, while absent as a volunteer surgeon, in the spring of 1862, were read with especial interest.

JOEL A. WING, M. D.

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 274.

PLATT WILLIAMS, M. D.*

See Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Volume I, page 217.

RICHARD H. THOMPSON, M. D.*

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* Owing to the fact that no reference to the deaths of Drs. Platt Williams and Richard H. Thompson appear in the minutes of the Society's meetings, the decease of those members escaped the attention of the Committee, until a period too late for the preparation of biographical sketches of them for this volume.

MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
Adams, Archibald H.	1808	.....	1811	42
Adams, Frederick C.	1856	.....	1862	40
Alexander, O. C.	1857			
Allen, Chas. C.	1866			
Anderson, Wm.	1810	.....	1811	40
Armsby, G. Hawley	1865			
Armsby, James H.	1834	1850, '51		
Atherly, J.	1860			
Babcock, James L.	1854	1868		
Babcock, J. E.	1851			
Babcock, John	1839			
Babcock, John	1868			
Bailey, James S.	1867			
Bailey, Wm. H.	1854	1870		
Banks, John	1857			
Barney, Jarvis	1832	.....	1838	33
Bay, John W.	1823	1837		
Bay, William	1810	1823–25	1866	93
Beck, Lewis C.*	1823	.....	1853	55
Beck, T. Romeyn	1811	.....	1855	
Becker, Hiram	1868			
Becker, John	1858			
Beckett, Thomas	1862			
Bendell, Herman	1866			
Bigelow, Abram T.	1829			
Bigelow, John M.	1870			
Bigelow, Uriah G.	1845	1854, '55		
Blaisdell, Wesley	1861			
Boyd, James P.	1828	1838, '39		
Boyce, L. R.	1871			
Boulware, J. R.	1860			
Breakley, Isaiah	1846	.....	1848	59
Briggs, J. Myers	1870			

* Resigned July 13th, 1850.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
BRONSON, HENRY	1830			
BROWNELL, MOSES	1816			
BROWNELL, RICHARD	1816			
BROWN, JAMES M.	1828	.....	1854	50
BULLOCK, J. R.	1851			
BURROWS, CHAS. E.	1826			
BURRUS, DAVID R.	1831			
BURBANK, ASA	1828	.....	1832	
BURT, ASHAEL	1862			
BURTON, ELISHA S.	1828			
CAMPBELL, JOHN	1844			
CARTER, WM. F.	1837	1861	1866	54
CASE, H. S.	1858			
CASE, JONATHAN H.	1831	.....	1865	
CHAPIN, F. L. R.	1852			
CHAMBERS, WM. B.	1860			
CHESNEY, ENOCH	1831			
CHRISTIE, HIRAM	1831			
CLARK, EDWARD H.	1848			
CLEMENT, MOSES	1821	.....	1831	51
COBB, O. F.	1871			
COGSWELL, MASON F.	1840	1846, '47	1863	
CORY, LANSING	1831			
COY, DARIUS	1831			
COOPER, CHAS. D.	1808	.....	1831	63
CRAIG, WM. H.	1854	1869		
CROUNSE FREDERICK	1834			
CROUNSE, HIRAM	1854			
CROUNSE, JOHN F.	1863			
CROTHERS, T. DAVIDSON	1870			
CROSBY, OBADIAH	1830	.....	1838	38
CUYLER, VERNOR	1830			
DAVIDSON, J. REID	1870			
DAVIDSON, ———	1830			
DAVIS, EUSTIS H.	1869			
DAVIS, J. M.	1866			
DAYTON, C. E.	1844			
DEGRAFF, A.	1866			
DENNICK, VALENTINE	1822			
DE LAMATER, IRA M.	1851	.....	1864	
DE LAMATER, PETER	1812	.....	1849	77
DEVOL, CHARLES	1854			
DICKSON, SAMUEL	1834	.....	1858	51
DOOR, PALMER C.	1831	.....	1840	43
DOUGLAS, BERIAH	1832			
DUNKELMEYER, L. M.	1868			
DUSENBURY, RICHARD J.	1831			

NAMES.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
Edmeston, Alex. A.	1858	.....	1871	42
Edmonds, Hiram A.	1853	.....	1857	
Eights, Jonathan*	1810	1813–16, '21, '40	1848	75
Fay, Henry B.	1848			
Ferguson, John	1866			
Fish, Salah B.	1842			
Flagler, J. O.	1841			
Fonda, Alex. G.	1806	.....	1868	84
Fonda, D. E.	1851			
Ford, Edward W.	1831	.....	1855	45
Fowler, Amos	1856			
Freeman, Samuel	1816			
Freeman, Samuel H.	1846	1856, '57		
Fredenburgh, Benj. B.	1830			
Freligh, Michael	1824	.....	1853	83
Gannon, Patrick	1844	.....	1854	74
Gansevoort, Rensselaer	1825	.....	1838	35
Gauff, Caleb	1806			
Geoghegan, Wm.†	1848			
Geoghegan, Wm.‡	1870			
Gibbons, Thos. J.	1817	.....	1819	21
Gilligan, Michael G.	1866			
Golding, P. J. C. W.	1871			
Graham, Josiah	1845			
Grant, H. A.	1837			
Graveline, L. C. B.	1871			
Griffin, Christopher C.	1845	.....	1856	41
Green, Alfred	1846			
Greene, Henry	1829	.....	1844.	54
Gregory, John R.	1866			
Gregory, Lewis B.	1831	.....	1838	30
Groesbeck, Abraham	1831			
Hale, Lorenzo	1871			
Hallenbeck, Henry B.	1821	.....	1825	25
Hammond, Ammond	1831	.....	1849	46
Hand, Stephen D.	1832			
Harlow, A. S.	1860			
Harris, Augustus	1806	.....	1857	81
Haskins, Henry R.	1862			
Havens, J. D.,	1862			
Hawley, Wm. A.	1851			
Heard, ——	1852			

* Resigned 1817. † Resigned. ‡ United again.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
HEGEMAN, JOSEPH W.	1806	.....	1837	65
HEINZE, ———	1853			
HELME, THOMAS	1858			
HEMPSTEAD, ISAAC	1829	.....	1852	48
HEUSTED, ALFRED B.	1867			
HINCKLEY, JOHN W.	1825	.....	1860	57
HOFF, ALEXANDER H.	1854			
HOLLENBAKE, ALSON J.	1831			
HOUGHTALING, DAVID W. D.	1826	.....	1829	33
HUMPHREY, CARROL	1831	.....	1834	29
HUMPHRIES, SAMUEL	1828	.....	1832	30
HUMPHRIES, WM.	1819	.....	1829	31
HUN, EDWARD R.	1867			
HUN, THOMAS	1830	1844, '45		
HUNGERFORD, N. L.	1834			
HYDE, ISAAC	1808	.....	1833	61
INGRAHAM, SAMUEL	1852			
JAMES, JOHN	1820			
JENKS, OTIS	1840	.....	1854	55
JOHNSON, JONATHAN	1812	.....	1860	75
JOHNSON, STEPHEN	1864			
KANE, HAZAEL	1827			
KILMER, W.	1860			
KNOWLTON, MYRON	1865			
KNAUFF, JOHN G.*	1806	.....	1810	
LACEY, E. A.	1831			
LATHROP, OLIVER	1813	.....	1824	57
LAMB, MILTON M.	1857			
LANSING, JOHN V.	1860			
LANSING JR., K. V. R.	1871			
LAWYER, AUGUSTUS F.	1829			
LAY, J. W.	1832	.....	1855	68
LEONARD, EDWARD A.	1828	.....	1837	31
LEWI, JOSEPH	1852	1871		
LINCON, SOLOMON	1829			
LOSEE, H. D.	1870			
LOW, JAMES	1828	1820	1822	40
LOW, JAMES S.	1830			
LYONS, ———	1848			
MALONE, MICHAEL	1828	.....	1844	46
MANCIUS, WILHELMUS	1806	.....	1808	70
MARCH, ALDEN	1823	1832, '33	1869	

* Resigned, 1806.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
March, Henry	1853			
Marsh, C. D.	1851			
Markey, Nicholas	1829			
Martin, Charles	1819			
Martin David	1844	.....	1853	53
Mattimore, F. J.	1862			
McClellan, Wm.	1806	1812	1812	43
McDonald, Alex.	1868			
McHarg, Henry B.	1847	.....	1848	22
McKown, Abraham	1850	.....	1853	33
McKown, Jas. F.*	1867			
McLachlen, David M.	1830	.....	1858	55
McLean, Leroy	1857			
McNaughton, Alex. W.	1848			
McNaughton, Henry G.	1856			
McNaughton, James	1828	1848, '49		
McNaughton, Peter	1828	1864		
Mead, Martin L.	1860			
Moore, J. W.	1860			
Moore, Levi	1852	1865		
Moore, Levarette	1833			
Morgan, Wm.	1870			
Mosher, Cornelius D.	1860			
Mosher, Frank G.	1861			
Mosher, Jacob S.	1864			
Murphy, ———	1830			
Murphy, P. M.	1867			
Murray, W. H.	1871			
Myers, J. J.	1865			
Neeley, Thomas H.	1850	.....	1851	25
Newcomb, Geo. H.	1857			
Newcomb, Westley	1834			
Noble, Wm.	1828			
Northrop, Joseph N.	1860			
Noxon, Peter B.	1828			
O'Callighan, E. B.	1841			
O'Donnell, Wm.	1830			
O'Flagler, John	1841			
O'Leary, C. B.	1864			
O'Leary, D. V.	1867			
Parmele, F. B.	1862			
Payn, Charles H.	1841			

* Embraced homeopathy.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
PEARCE, WM.	1830			
PERRY, EDWARD	1845			43
POMFRET, JAMES E.	1858	1866	1869	
PORTER, CHARLES H.	1859			
PRIEST, FRANCIS W.	1837			
QUACKENBUSH, JNO. V. P.	1844	1852, '53		
RADCLIFF, WM. J.	1834			
REINHARDT, JACOB	1850			
REYNOLDS, P. L. F.*	1865			
REYNOLDS, WM. H. F.	1870			
ROBERTSON, CHARLES A.	1865			
ROCKWELL, ALVA W.	1830			
RODGERS, WM. C.	1857	.....	1860	
ROSSMAN, J. B.	1837			
RUSK, NELSON	1830			
SABALIS, BERNHARD†	1834			
SABIN, R. H.	1859	1867		
SALESBURY, JAMES H.	1850			
SAWYER, SIDNEY	1835			
SCATTERGOOD, CHAS. F.	1870			
SCOON, J. H.	1853			
SELKIRK, FRANCIS N.	1829	.....	1849	40
SEWALL, EDWARD Q.	1837			
SHAW, SAMUEL	1830			
SHELDON, BENJ. A.	1847			
SHERIFF, JOHN	1860			
SHILAND, A. W.	1857			
SIGSBEE, WM.	1865			
SIMS, WM. B.	1851			
SMITH, CHAS. H.	1859			
SMITH, THOMAS	1859	.....	1862	
SPALDING, GUY	1837	.....	1854	75
SPAULDING, LYMAN	1821			
SPENCER, HENRY T.	1852	.....	1862	
SPRINGSTEED, DAVID‡	1831			
STAATS, BARENT P.	1821	1834–36	1871	74
STAATS, CHAS. P.	1859			
STAATS, PETER P.	1828	1865		
STEARNS, JOHN§	1810	1817–19	1848	79
STEENBERGH, H. W.	1864			
STEINART, GEO.	1858			
STEVENS, GEORGE T.	1866			

* Embraced homeopathy.
† Returned to Holland.
‡ Embraced homeopathy.
§ Resigned May 11th, 1819.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
Stimson, Daniel M.*	1869			
Styles, Jno	1829			
Swarts, ——	1857			
Swinburne, John	1847			
Taber, Paul T	1848	.....	1851	25
Taber, Stephen J. W	1855			
Taylor, Augustus R	1807	.....	1841	58
Tefft, E. B	1871			
Ten Eyck, A. P	1870			
Thompson, John	1868			
Thompson, Richard H	1845			
Townsend, Chas. D	1806	1830, '31	1847	70
Townsend, Howard	1848	1862, '63	1867	44
Townsend, Jno. F	1830			
Tracey, Luther M	1831			
Travers, Richard D	1868			
Treat, Samuel S	1821	.....	1832	33
Treskatis, Gustavus	1866			
Trotter, John H	1837	.....	1861	48
Tullby, Wm	1828	.....	1859	74
Uline, S. P	1854			
Upfold, Jr., George	1816			
Van Alstyne, J. T	1864			
Van Alstyne, Jno. S	1831	.....	1844	
Van Antwerp, Henry	1830	.....	1859	57
Van Buren, John	1837	.....	1856	48
Van Buren, Peter	1839	1841–3		
Van Derveer, Albert	1866			
Vanderpoel, S. Oakley	1851	1860, '61		
Van Denmark, ——	1833			
Van Deusen, Jacob L.†	1807			
Van Loon, ——	1840			
Van O'Linda, Henry	1841	.....	1846	
Van O'Linda, Peter	1821			
Van Rensselaer, Alex	1837			
Van Steenberg, Warner	1865			
Van Zandt, Benj	1829			
Vedder, Simon	1808	.....	1860	72
Viele, Augustus	1850			
Viets, Roger	1820	.....	1853	
Vrooman, Jr., Cornelius	1806	.....	1811	30
Wade, Ezekiel M	1865			

* Removed to N. Y. city, 1871. †Resigned Jan. 11th, 1814.

NAME.	When admitted.	When President.	Date of death.	Age at death.
WADE, JAMES	1829	.....	....	78
WALLER, C. C.	1847			
WANDS, ALFRED	1857	.....	1870	48
WARREN, LEONARD G.	1831	.....	1866	63
WASSERBACH, DANIEL	1855			
WEBSTER, ASHBEL S.	1819	.....	1840	44
WELCH, J. L.	1861			
WELLINGTON, LUKE	1828			
WENDELL, HERMAN	1834			
WENDELL PETER	1828	.....	1849	64
WENDELL, PETER*	1807			
WESTERVELT, ALONZO G.	1850			
WHEELER, A. H.	1840			
WHITBECK, C. E.	1868			
WHITBECK, JOHN P.	1853			
WICKES, PLATT	1832			
WILBUR, HENRY B.	1853			
WILLARD, ELIAS†	1807			
WILLARD, SYLVESTER D.	1848	1858, '59	1865	40
WILLIAMS, ERASTUS	1812	.....	1842	69
WILLIAMS, PLATT	1816	1828, '29	1870	
WILSON, ANDREW	1856	.....	1871	56
WILSON, JOHN	1839			
WILTSIE, DAVID	1849			
WING, JOEL A.	1816	1826, '27	1852	65
WINNE, NANNING V.	1829	.....	1858	51
WINNE, STAATS	1856			
WOOD, BARNABUS	1871			
WOODRUFF, HUNLOKE	1806	1806–11	1811	56
WOODWARD, CALEB	1819			
WRIGHT, SILAS P.	1864			
WYCKOFF, I. N.	1851			
YATES, C. C.	1821	1822	1848	70
YOUNG, OSCAR H.	1859			
YOUNG, WM. J.	1840			

* Resigned Jan. 11th, 1825. † Expelled July 9th, 1811.

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